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Soviet Union

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["Studio 9" program moderated by Prof Valentin Sergeyevich Zorin, political observer of Soviet television and radio, with Valentin Mikhaylovich Falin, first deputy chief of the International Information Department of the CPSU Central Committee and Col Gen Nikolay Fedorovich Chervov, chief of a directorate of the USSR Armed Forces General Staff]

[Text] Good evening comrades. We again meet in Studio 9 at Ostankino Television Center in order to discuss important, urgent world political problems. The subject of our discussion today has been suggested to a considerable extent by your letters, and by the questions you ask in them. In order to answer your questions we have invited Valentin Mikhaylovich Falin, first deputy head of the International Information Department of the CPSU Central Committee; and Colonel General Nikolay Fedorovich Chervov, chief of a directorate of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces, to participate in our discussion today. The main problem at the present time is, without doubt, the problem of war and peace. Some of our party documents, and Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's statements, have lately outlined very clearly both the foreign policy and the military strategic doctrines which are used as guides by our country. Striving to reduce the impression these documents and statements are making on the world community, bourgeois propaganda and bourgeois mass information media are trying to present the matter as a new round of Soviet propaganda. However, things such as foreign policy doctrine and the military strategy doctrine of the state are not propaganda. Naturally, they are doctrines which exert an influence on world public opinion -- and it cannot be otherwise; but first of all they are real and, most important, basic political facts. I would like to begin today's discussion with a request to you, Valentin Mikhaylovich, to outline, even briefly, the essence of Soviet foreign policy doctrine.

[Falin] Truly, Valentin Sergeyevich, the situation in the world is such that people on all of the continents do not stop asking questions about the reason for the current tensions, because never since World War II has the situation been as serious as it is now. It is apparent that these complications are not the products of rhetoric or of obstrusive polemics which the rulers of some NATO countries are fanning under the guise of propaganda. It is clear that in politics you have to consider not only the upper bits which are visible to all, but also the roots; foreign policy reflects deep-seated interests. Foreign policy is to some extent a barometer which reflects those complicated and contradictory processes which take place and sometimes boil within the systems. Probably because of this, foreign policy and foreign policy doctrines have from time immemorial been among the most closely guarded state secrets.

That is how it used to be. Now there are considerably fewer secrets connected with politics. They now speak and write a lot about foreign policy doctrines, yet Western leaders more often than not prefer to outline, to expound this doctrine in vague terms and to not commit themselves to much. Yet with all of these reservations, it is worth comparing the doctrines of the states -- provided that we do not limit ourselves to a comparison of words, but throw deeds onto the scale as well, because policy is not just a collection of principles and declarations but primarily a totality of actions linked by a common aim, a common meaning and a common philosophy.

What is the aim, meaning and philosophy of Soviet foreign policy, or if you use the term, Soviet foreign policy doctrine? They, and with them the main coordinates of our policy, were outlined on the day the Soviet state, the decree on peace and Lenin's decree were born. That was not just a new quality in the life of a single state; it was a revolution in international relations.

The revolution took place and something extremely important happened in the world community of states. Truly, many difficult decades will have to pass before the representatives of the other system, which is oriented on violence, exploitation and oppression, learn to say the words "peaceful coexistence" and recognize that it is necessary to sit at the conference table with the Soviet Union -- not in order to procastinate, but in order to come to an agreement. When the pillars of capitalism and its captains recognize that, there is no reasonable alternative to peace.

Our foreign policy doctrine found its concrete embodiment, expression, in the Soviet proposals on disarmament which have been repeatedly submitted throughout the history of our state. It found its expression in the peace programs adopted at the 24th and the 25th party congresses, in the peace program for the 1980's adopted at the 26th congress, in the Constitution of the Soviet state -- that so far unique document which declares peace as the official philosophy of our country and instructs all of the government organs, all of the Soviet citizens, to steadfastly adhere to the idea of peace.

The Soviet doctrine is characterized by the absence of pretensions to exclusiveness, of claims to some kind of special rights and special privileges, special advantages. For us, equality means equality, noninterference in internal affairs is noninterference in internal affairs, equal security is equal security and nothing else. We do not accept and do not practice double standards, one for us and another for others. For us, national discrimination, racism, aggression have been and still are evils, always and everywhere. Mutuality in pledges and reciprocity in benefits is our motto and our credo. In other words, we do not expect and do not demand from others things which we are not ready to give ourselves. This is true without exception, and this is especially true with respect to this most important and most urgent field, the field of limiting the arms race and disarmament.

[Zorin] And here the military strategy doctrine of a state, any state, is most closely related to its entire political course, especially the foreign policy doctrine. In this connection I would like to ask you, Nikolay Fedorovich, how you would describe the Soviet military strategy doctrine.

[Chervov] Valentin Sergeyevich, in order to correctly understand the basic principles of the Soviet military doctrine, you must take the following into consideration: Over the 65 years of history of its existence, the Soviet Union has never threatened anyone with war and has not attacked anyone. This alone speaks of the character and the orientation of our military doctrine. We have had to carry out many military operations, but they were always defensive wars to defend the Soviet state, to implement agreement conditions for allies or to repel an attack on them. The Soviet military doctrine is currently directed only, I stress only, at insuring reliable security for the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist alliance. It has no other aims. The need for such security is called for first of all by those large-scale military preparations being conducted by the U.S. and the NATO bloc, and which cannot be overlooked. When the U.S. Government leaders officially declare that in international relations, in relations with the Soviet Union, they will stop at nothing including the use of nuclear weapons, we take this not just as plain words. Obviously we have to and must think about our state security, because the statements are made by state leaders who are at the helm of policy.

The Soviet Union considers a nuclear attack as the most serious crime against humanity. The Soviet Union, emphasizes Comrade Brezhnev, has always been and remains a confirmed enemy of this type of concept. Our efforts are aimed at insuring that the matter comes neither to the first nor second strike, and that there will be no nuclear war at all. Leonid Ilich says that our approach to these problems can be formulated as follows: The defensive potential of the Soviet Union must be sufficient in order to prevent anyone from taking the risk of disturbing our life.

It is not a course aimed at insuring supremacy in armaments, but a course aimed at reducing them, aimed at reducing military confrontation. That is our policy. This has been stated in an exhaustively clear manner, and we do not have any other doctrine.

[Zorin] And if needed...[Chervov interrupts]

[Chervov] I would like to stress one more thought. We know that there are many people in the West who state that the Soviet Union is allegedly threatening other states.

[Zorin] This is precisely what I wanted to ask you about. There is a great deal of speculation about the Soviet military doctrine, especially of this kind.

[Chervov] Such slanderous fabrications were also spread on the eve of World War II, at a time when fascism threatened the world. In the west, they continue to clamour about the Soviet military threat. NATO's present militarist course, led by the U.S., forces us to keep our defense at an appropriate level. But as Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said, we do not spend and will not spend for these purposes a single ruble above what is absolutely necessary to insure the security of our people and their friends and allies.

In order to denigrate the defensive orientation of the Soviet military doctrine, the high level of combat readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces and the active and resolute nature of the methods of combat operations which they adopt are sometimes cited. But these are two absolutely and totally different things. The defensive orientation of military doctrine does not rule out either a high level of combat readiness for the armed forces or active and resolute action to repulse the enemy's aggression. On the contrary, active offensive action is the most effective way of repulsing the enemy. I would like to refer to a quotation from Marshal of the Soviet Union and USSR Minister of Defense Dmitriy Fedorovich Ustinov, who said: For the imperialists and their accomplices it must be quite clear that retribution for an attack on the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community will be implacable. I think that it would also be appropriate to recall the words of Aleksandr Nevskiy, our great Russian military leader: He who comes to us with the sword will die by the sword. That, in brief, is the gist of our military doctrine.

[Zorin] Thank you, Nikolay Fedorovich. We have already examined one part of the picture, but to have a complete picture we must also say something about the other side's doctrines. First of all, I would like to ask you about the foreign policy doctrine which you think Washington is guided by today, Valentin Mikhaylovich.

[Falin] Strange though it may seem, by and large, Washington does not make much of a secret today of the fact that its foreign policy doctrine is founded on imperial aims and imperial ambitions. For a long time the leaders of the United States of America preferred not to mention certain notions and ideas which were formulated in that country immediately after the World War I. Then, after World War II ideas about the mission were vested in the United States of America from on high in terms of world leadership, about the United States of America's duty to lead the world, about the leadership which is supposedly the United States of America's destiny, and so on and so forth. [Sentence as heard]

All of this has now been dragged out of the archives; it is all being repeated and, what is more, with weighty additions at the level of the President and his cabinet. The United States of America asserts that American values, the American way of life and those ideals which are professed and worshipped in that country -- by the ruling classes, in any event -- represent ultimate truths for all of the other people of the world. So, everywhere that it thinks it might be successful, the United States of America aspires to install a situation which suits it. And that is not all. The United States of America believes that the people of other states have an obligation to pay for this world leadership. They somehow have an obligation to recompense the United States of America.

As a matter of fact, this recompense is being directly named. The United States of America claims exclusive free access, only for itself, to sources of energy, particularly in the Near and Middle East, and to sources of raw materials in the Near and Middle East, in southern Africa and in Latin America. Moreover, the United States of America is to determine not only the way in which these sources are used, but also the prices at which energy, for example, is to be supplied to the United States of America or its friends.

There are officials in the administration who go so far as to assert that the world as a whole can be kept safe, that the world is only conceivable if other countries reorganize their social and economic systems, if the Soviet Union, among others, carries out a reappraisal of values and adapts itself to the American way of life. If this does not happen, then the world -- according to these officials -- is lost. Naturally, this aggressive foreign policy doctrine -- and there is no other word for it -- also finds expression in those specific actions, specific steps and specific positions which the U.S. leadership undertakes and occupies. The United States of America currently aspires not only to be a strong country economically and militarily -- and who can deny that the United States of America is a mighty power -- but, as they themselves declare, the United States of America wants to be the number one power in the military sense. It wants to be the power which is superior to all other states in terms of all the aspects which make up a country's military potential and military possibilites.

This superiority has become an idee fixe. This desire for superiority now determines the sense and content of all of the actions which we can see. They alarm not only us, but also the people of all the other countries and they are starting to alarm the people of the United States of America. This idea of superiority, of gaining the ability to carry out a strike where the United States of America -- in their own words -- sees fit when considering their own interests, and the ability to carry it out when they think suitable -- reckoning that a retaliatory strike may be of smaller force than under different circumstances -- this desire runs through all of the present administration's activity. And we are talking about almost 1 and 1/2 years now.

It seems to me that in this sense we find ourselves at an exceedingly difficult and exceedingly dangerous stage of development, because the United States of America, the leadership of the United States of America, is not just making a sharp turn -- and we know that there has always been a very large amount of zig-zags in the policy of that state -- they are making the country face backwards. They are making it face the past. They are striking out their own experience and their own knowledge. They are striking out an appeal which was made by a President around whose name there have been no particular polemics or debate over the last few decades, President Eisenhower's appeal for greater circumspection and better-considered actions. I would remind you that this President wrote the following when already in retirement: The real problem of security is not man against man or nation against nation, but man against war. When we come to the crunch, and that time will come -- I would remind you that Eisenhower's words relate to 1956 -- to the crunch which consists of both sides knowing that if it came to a general war quite irrespective of the element of surprise, destruction would be mutual and total. Then possibly we might have enough sense to meet at the conference table in the realization that the age of armaments has ended and that humanity must recast its actions in conformity with this truth, or die.

[Zorin] Eisenhower was a Republican president. The current President, also a Republican, clearly takes a different view.

[Falin] Yes, we are now coming up against the paradox that not only have missiles with multiple warheads been devised, but there is nc shortage of politicians with multiple heads.

[Zorin] Well, we have talked about the American foreign policy doctrine. To complete this series of problems, I would like to ask you, Nikolay Fedorovich, to tell us how the United States of America's current military and strategic doctrine is viewed by our general staff.

[Chervov] The United State's military doctrine is the product of a bourgeois society in which the country's whole life is steeped in militarism and in which the dominant role is played by military force. The credo of the present American military doctrine has been formulated by the statesmen themselves -- the attainment of full and uncontestable military superiority by the United States and the restoration of America's leading role in the world. The basis of the present day military doctrine, as has been declared by Secretary of Defense Weinberger, is the so-called strategy of direct confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union on a global and regional scale. Mark the very name, the name speaks for itself. The stake on military might and on preparations for war of any type and on any scale -- whether it be general nuclear war, a limited nuclear war or a local war -- is the principal purpose of American military doctrine.

[Zorin] Recently, during the last few days, the world has been impressed by the very serious new proposals which Leonid Ilich Brezhnev put forward on behalf of our country, proposals which to a certain degree focus the ideas contained both in our foreign policy doctrine and in our military doctrine. These are proposals aimed at reducing military confrontation, particularly in Europe, as Leonid Ilich said in his speech at the congress of Soviet trade unions. It must be said that reactions to this speech were almost unprecedented. One could perhaps only compare them with reactions to the documents of the 26th congress which attracted enormous attention throughout the world.

The whole world is currently giving the same attention to the new Soviet initiatives. A considerable section of international public opinion supports the proposals made by Comrade Brezhnev. I would like to draw the attention of our viewers to a rather important fact. A very obvious turn has become apparent in the mood of the U.S. public. During the last 1 and 1/2 years or even more a considerable section of the U.S. public was deafened by the very concentrated and purposeful camapign of U.S. propaganda, which exaggerated the myth of the Soviet military threat. Under these conditions, U.S. public opinion had a passive attitude toward the new military program proposed by Reagan's administration and to the Reagan administration's very hard policy in the sphere of international relations; there were no particular protests in the U.S. It is now, literally in the last days and weeks, that a turn has become apparent. It has become particularly apparent now. When we study the reactions to the Soviet Union's proposals, it becomes apparent that these proposals have met a positive reaction among wide circles of the U.S. public. For the first time since it came to power, the Reagan administration has had to face difficulties in its relations with Congress when it had to push a new military budget through Congress. Despite such a reaction from the international public and despite shifts in the moods of the U.S. public in recent times, Washington still had a negative reaction to the Soviet proposals. This was done, I think, without even giving itself time to consider these proposals; it was reacted to with a speed which was politically indecent. I would like to ask you, Valentin Mikhaylovich, to answer this question. What is hidden behind such a reaction to these proposals from Washington?

[Falin] Valentin Sergeyevich, you are right when you say that the reaction to the proposals made by Leonid Ilich is extremely interesting throughout the world. It is very interesting and makes one think and believe that people will finally find a correct path for solving the difficulties and problems which have arisen. It is a reaction which is distinguished by a large variety of shades and accents, a reaction which does not fit the usual schemes as much as Washington would like it, and a reaction which shows that detente is far from dead. It was impossible to kill not only its shoots and its flowers, but any part of it; detente is again pushing its way to sunlight under spring sunshine. It attracts the people and the attention of the widest public circles.

You said that Washington, official Washington, reacted with indecent haste to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech.

It is true, there are very few precedents in the history of recent international relations when such frivolous, thoughtless and easy statements have been made. In statements made by official Washington, one primarily feels an enormous share of irritation. It has been almost a rule for a long time that if you want to irritate Washington, you must make a constructive proposal. As one of our newspapers recently wrote, a pessimist is a man who always feels bad and even feels bad when he feels well. The President and his cabinet are currently playing the role of such pessimists and are trying to prove something that cannot, in fact, be proven. That is that the Soviet proposals are aimed at some unilateral advantages and that they will give the Soviet Union unilateral profits while Washington and its friends will be the losers, as if this was the case.

The analysis of everything we now know about Washington's reaction and its immediate plans shows that the greatest anger and indignation there is provoked by the prospect of the emergence of new difficulties in addition to those already on the path of the implementation of the militaristic programs which have been approved in recent years, programs which were begun by Carter and continued by Reagan. The New York TIMES has written recently, 2 or 3 days ago that the programs initiated now will need 17,000 new nuclear warheads for their implementation. This is in addition to the 25,000 which, as the newspaper reports, the U.S. already has.

So ask yourself: In 5 to 7 years the U.S. wants to almost double its nuclear potential under various pretexts and explanations and by producing various spurious arguments, the chief one being the same old myth of Soviet military threat. They cite Poland, they cite Afghanistan, they cite other events in various parts of the world, including the Western Hemisphere, Salvador, Nicaragua, U.S. eyes have seen something again in the region of Cuba. In general, all of this hides the unquenchable thirst to increase the U.S. military potential and to bring it to a level where the U.S. itself would not know what to do with it. Already now there are so many weapons accumulated that there are about 4 tons of normal explosives for each inhabitant of the planet. How much more? It seems there is more. The U.S. and its official leadership consider that the quantity can also take quality into account and that the U.S. could deploy the weapons all over the world in such a way that they could threaten some countries and regions and force some governments and people to make concessions which they cannot now achieve in other ways or by other means. As always happens in practice, bare facts are never enough in the U.S.; they begin to add their own ideas to the facts or they turn the facts around in their own way and to their own taste, adapting them to their doctrines. They begin to insist despite the facts, despite numerous facts recognized by any objective researchers in the West, in neutral countries and in NATO countries. There is parity say the analysts, there is an approximate balance; nothing demands any effort to coorelate forces and the U.S. does not need to spend more on the creation of new weapons systems or on the accumulation of these weapons. However, they insist that there is no balance or that the balance may change at any moment to the benefit of the Soviet Union and so the U.S. must hurry and not miss the fast moving train.

[Zorin] This is a very important thought, that you have mentioned, Valentin Mikhaylovich, and I think that the question about the correlation of forces deserves longer treatment. Much is being written about it in the West and Western propaganda has expanded endless speculation on the subject. It would be interesting to get to know your point of view, Nikolay Fedorovich, as a representative of our general staff, on the problem of balance and the problem of the correlation of forces.

[Chervov] I will continue the thought expressed by Valentin Mikhaylovich. The existence of military balance between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, between NATO and the Warsaw Pact, and in general between the East and the West, as they say, is an objective reality of today. All the noise made in the West about the Soviet Union's superiority is completely unfounded. Let us look in all directions to prove this fact. Let us consider the strategic nuclear weapons.

The problem was worked out in great detail and weighed on a chemist's scales, as they say, during the working out of the SALT II Treaty. The two sides exchanged concrete figures and concrete data and arrived at the conclusion that there is parity in this case, The former President, Carter, said directly that the treaty represents the balanced interests of both sides. Since then, nothing happened here which could serve as a reason to talk about a disturbance of military balance. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said officially on this subject, and I will quote: I state quite definitely, said Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, the Soviet Union, from the moment it signed the SALT II Treaty in 1979 did nothing in the sphere of strategic weapons which could lead to changes in the approximate parity which was established.

However, the actions of the U.S. call for some watchfulness, the diagram which you can see shows the growth of the nuclear potential of strategic weapons. It shows the growth of the quantity of nuclear charges which can be carried at once by U.S. strategic attack weapons. In 1970 it was 5,100 units, in 1980 it became 10,000 and by 1990 it will be about 19,000-20,000. This puts us on the alert. Parity exists in Europe in the case of medium-range nuclear weapons. When we talk about correlation of one on one, we mean the means pointed out by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev in his interview in the West German magazine DER SPIEGEL.

There is no need to dwell on the enumeration of these weapons. The questions only concretely concern the medium-range weapons. I mean those that have a range of 1,000 kilometers and more but not the intercontinental ones. This concerns the means which are capable of hitting objects on the territory of the Soviet Union from the territory of West European states and nearby seas, and the similar range of Soviet weapons deployed in the European part of our country, the European part. The number of such weapons is as follows: NATO has 986 units and the Soviet Union 975 units, which means an approximate balance. Washington considers that the Soviet Union has superiority in this area and quotes the most mostrous figures, for example, they quote correlations to the Soviet Union's benefit of 6 to 1, 4 to 1, 3 to 1 and so forth. However, all of these figures and all of these evaluations consider an arbitrary selection of nuclear means in order to show, most of all, the superiority of the Soviet Union and so to substantiate to a certain extent the decision on updating weapons in Western Europe with new U.S. missiles. Because of this, a large number of brackets are put around some examples, such as U.S. aircraft carriers. For some reason, only two aircraft carriers are taken into account. They are the ones in the Mediterranean Sea. There is no mention at all of four U.S. aircraft carriers based in the North West Atlantic Ocean which are directly intended for military actions in Europe, and that means 160 carrier aircraft.

Two hundred sixty-three missiles and carrier aircraft of Great Britain and France are not mentioned and are not taken in to account. It is as though these missiles were targeted on Washington and, because of that, they are ready to add them to our balance sheet. All of these devices do actually exist and have such a range that they are able to hit targets in the Soviet Union -- I will show it to you on the map where it is very clear -- capable of hitting targets on the territory of the Soviet Union as far as the Ural Mountains and even further. So there is no reason to ignore them. Why does the United States fail to mention and fail to take into account intermediate range nuclear devices? At the same time, the Americans, according to their method, their methodology, are illegally counting our operational tactical missiles, taking into account almost all of our tactical aviation with a range of 300-500 kilometers. They have absolutely no relations to intermediate nuclear devices. We are not counting similar American missiles such as the Pershing I with a range of 700 kilometers; we do not take into account thousands of American tactical aviation carrier aircraft. Speaking briefly, if if is a matter, and at the talks in Geneva it is precisely a matter, of the parties' intermediate nuclear devices, then in this field there is an exact balance of power which is expressed one to one.

[Zorin] Thank you.

[Falin] Could I add, Nikolay Fedorovich, one to one if you talk about carriers, but if you talk about nuclear warheads then the U.S. and its NATO allies have an advantage of one to one and 1/2 which is a 50 percent superiority.

[Chervov] That is correct.

[Falin] That is not an insignificant factor, because in one launch you can deliver 50 percent more warheads to their target.

[Chervov] And again, if we talk about nuclear warheads we can in no way fail to take into account the forced modernization of medium range nuclear weapons of NATO countries, the U.S., Britain and France. We can cite the following figure: As a result of weapons modernization by Britain and France alone, they could launch almost 1,500 nuclear warheads at one time by the year 1990.

[Falin] Additionally?

[Chervov] Additionally. How can you overlook such a circumstance. But I would like to, if you allow me, to close on the balance of power. There is a real balance of power on general purpose forces. Of course, this problem is very complicated insofar as there are armaments where the Warsaw Treaty has more and in some others where the NATO countries have more, but on the whole there is also a real balance of power in all indices. That does not just exist on paper, it exists in fact. When they tell us that our calculations are incorrect, that it is necessary to compare only the armed forces of the Soviet Union and the U.S., we cannot agree to such a methodology. In medium range nuclear weapons you have seen that this is unacceptable and that this is a completely wrong methodology. The same is true in general purpose troops. They claim that the Soviet Union has superiority over the U.S. in the number of land forces divisions. It is true that the Soviet Union has more such land forces divisions. But this is completely normal, as the geographic position of the Soviet Union is such that it has to insure a balance of power not just in Europe; it also has to preserve the balance of power and insure security for its borders, defend its borders not only in the west but also in the south and in the east.

Generally, in concluding this question, I would like to stress the following: The correlation of armed forces -- this is not simply an unadorned figure. It is an account of all factors of the strategic situation.

[Zorin] Nikolay Fedorovich, now one more question. Now, a lot of speculation appeared after Leonid Ilich's speech at the trade union congress in connection with the statement on retaliatory measures [otvetnyye mery] which Leonid Ilich mentioned. They are attempting to push various propaganda campaigns in regard to this. How should this be interpreted?

[Chervov] Well first of all, it should be understood the way Leonid Ilich Brezhnev put it. He said it quite precisely and clearly. Soviet-U.S. relations are being built, as you know, on a basis of equality and equal security.. This was written into bilateral treaties and agreements and also stated in the Helsinki Final Act, which was signed by, among others, the U.S. President.

The United States apparently nourishes illusions that it is invulnerable across two oceans. But distances should now be assessed differently, differently in the sense that, while taking the threat closer to others, the United States brings it closer to itself. This important thesis stems from a natural law. Each side must measure the security of the other side with the same yardstick it uses to measure its own security. This is an objective reality. It may ignored but it cannot be changed. If the United States brings hundreds of new, medium-range missiles closer to our doorstep, and thereby creates an additional threat to the Soviet Union and the socialist countries, then by doing this it challenges the Soviet Union to also take retaliatory and adequate measures. To do this there is no need to bring other territories into play [dlya etogo ne nado zadeystovovat drugiye territorii].

Of course, the option of retaliatory measures is extremely undesirable to us. That is why we call on the United States to reject their intentions to futher arm Western Europe and to upset the established balance there.

[Zorin] In any case it is unbecoming for statesmen to use the logic of that well-known student who reckoned that the time between Monday and Saturday should be as long as the time between Saturday and Monday. We have touched upon Washington's negative reaction to the new Soviet proposals, talked about how the United States is attempting to distort, with quite specific aims, the correlation of forces. In connection with this, a quite natural question arises: What's next? I would like both of you, the participants of our talk today to try and answer this question. I would like you to begin please, Nikolay Fedorovich.

[Chervov] From the negotiations point of view, the Soviet Union is ready to conduct constructive negotiations. A round of negotiations has just ended in Geneva and it has realistically shown our readiness in this sphere.

As you know, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev said that we are ready — both sides of course — to fully free ourselves from medium-range weapons aimed at Europe. If our partners are not ready to solve this cardinal problem, then Leonid Ilich Brezhnev proposed a cardinal threefold or more reduction of these arms. Guided by this, our Soviet proposal -- the Soviet delegation proposal -- as you know already from the press, offered to reduce such arms to a 300-units level. The Soviet Union's unilateral establishment of a moratorium on these arms creates favourable conditions for reaching an agreement. It is now up to Washington.

[Zorin] But the United States persistently reiterates its desire to achieve superiority over the Soviet Union in the military sphere.

[Chervov] From a military point of view, both now and in the future, it can be confidently said that, first of all, the Soviet Union has never strived for nor is striving for superiority over the United States. But neither will it permit such military superiority over itself. Secondly, the Soviet Union will not permit the established balance to be violated.

[Excerpt] [Zorin] Valentin Mikhaylovich, I would like you to continue with the answer to the question: What next?

[Falin] The question, of course, is extremely important and one side, naturally, cannot answer it. If, in response to our proposal for a moratorium -- a proposal that is not made a condition of negotiations but is calculated to create a greater scope for the search for an agreement and to create a more favorable climate for understanding -- the other side says: No, we will continue to pursue our previous course and strive to deploy new U.S. nuclear means in Western Europe, then this is a position that is not constructive and is a position predicated on confrontation and on the exertion of forceful pressure. It is not worth putting forceful pressure on us. We are experienced in these matters and we know how to stand erect and firm in defense of our interests and have proved this more than once in the past.

It would probably be advisable to ask the following question: Good, the United States believes that things will develop in such a way that the Soviet Union and other socialist countries -- and the West European countries insofar as the Reagan administration is declaring war (?on the world at large) and is carrying out its power play not only in relation to the socialist countries, it may presently be putting even greater pressure on its allies than on us in attempting to adapt them and tie them to its policy -- will waver and submit.

All historic experience indicates that the United States need not expect compliance, not from the socialist countries, in any case.

Today we have to ask ourselves the following question: Does the United States take into account, and if so, to what extent, the possibility of conflict, the possibility of bringing relations between states gradually to a lower orbital level [na vse boleye nizkoye prizemleniye orbity], and the possibility of returning to a cold war as a prelude to some other confrontation? If it does take this into account, how does it assess the future of its own friends?

I would like to say that the Netherlands is in a very complex geographical position. Forty percent of its territory is below sea level. In a certain sense this symbolizes the vulnerable state in which not only the Netherlands, in this instance, but all of Europe -- not only Western Europe, but the whole of Europe generally -- finds itself and in what a vulnerable state -- a state lower, so to speak, than the level of security and lower than the level of normal existence -- it finds itself due to the arms race which has escaped all reasonable bounds.

Of course, this kind of life is an extremely severe teacher of the population and eventually it will teach anyone, including those people in Washington who presently succumb with great difficulty to teaching. Of course, in life and in politics it is much easier to condemn someone and it is considerably harder to understand him. In order for the United States to understand, it must still learn a lot from what it would seem the leaders of that state began to learn in the 1970's.

Of course, we all understand perfectly well that life revolves with the Earth along its own orbit. But many leaders in the United States still consider that the orbit in which the United States revolves -- or in which they would like to make this state revolve -- is the major and most important one, as if the United States can somehow be isolated from the alarms, concerns and dangers existing in the world. This is impossible.

If the United States is attempting to consolidate and strengthen its security by taking the danger closer to foreign shores and foreign borders, it is making the gravest mistake, insofar as it is bringing the danger closer to itself. And Leonid Ilich, at the trade unions congress, warned the United States that this is precisely how it will be. It cannot be otherwise because the other state which is being challenged cannot fail to respond and cannot fail to react. It is obliged to react in order to preserve peace, so that peace will not be subjected to irreparable ordeals and threats.

Answering your question, Valentin Sergeyevich, I think that despite all the difficulties that are presently being experienced on our sinful Earth and despite all the artificially created complexities in international relations, they need not exist.

Despite the attempts of the United States to supercharge tensions wherever an excuse presents itself -- as in Poland for instance, as I have already mentioned, or in the Middle East or Central America -- the United States today is less capable of influencing the destiny of the world than it was right after World War II. The United States cannot pretend that some kind of favorable situation exists in the world while creating an unfavorable situation for others.

This is why Leonid Ilich Brezhnev in his speeches fairly said and drew attention to the fact that the assessments and analyses made at the 26th congress concerning trends in the development of the world situation and of the dangers and favorable prospects for this development remain fully in force. There is no more important task on the international level for our party and our people, as well as for all peoples of the planet, than to defend peace.

Not preparations for war, which condemn the peoples to a senseless waste of their material and spiritual riches, but consolidation of peace: This is the guiding line into tomorrow.

This is the meaning of our foreign policy doctrine; this is the meaning of our military strategic doctrine; here is the aim of our socialist system; and here is what our state; our party and all other peoples appeal for, insofar as there is none, there cannot be and there will not be a more reasonable alternative to peace, peaceful cooperation and a policy of detente.

[Zorin] Our time for today has run out. It remains for me to thank the participants in our talk today and to thank you comrade television viewers. And so, until our next meeting here in Studio 9, thank you.

COMMENTARY ON SOVIET 'PEACE INITIATIVES'

CC Secretary Ponomarev Comments

LD270030 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1855 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar (TASS) -- A plenum of the Soviet Peace Committee was held in Moscow today at the October Hall of the House of Unions. It examined the tasks of the Soviet peace partisans for further intensification of action against the threat of war and in the interest of deepening detente and the development of cooperation among the peace-loving forces.

Those gathered were addressed by Boris Ponomarev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee. He pointed out that the struggle between the aggressive course and actions of the imperialists on the one hand and the peace-loving forces on the other is intensifying in the international arena.

The struggle of the forces of reason and peace against the forces of imperialist madness and war is entering an important -- perhaps a decisive -- phase. "That struggle," as the head of our party and state, the outstanding political and state figure of our time, a self-denying fighter for peace all the world over, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, said in his speech in Tashkent on the day before yesterday, "we cannot weaken for a single day, and we will continue it until the danger is removed, until a durable peace is ensured."

The leading circles of the United States, by adopting this year a military budget of a scale unprecedented in the history of mankind, are adding a new dimension to the arms race which is even more dangerous for the cause of peace. For all intents and purposes not concealing their desires, they are openly proclaiming the preparation for war to be their fundamental political course.

They are just as openly making a stake on nuclear war and, above all, on nuclear war in Europe. Finally, having thrown aside all restraint, they are publicizing to the whole world their policy of using force and the threat of force as the basic means of their foreign policy.

Just look at what is going on in Central America and the Near East, in the Indian Ocean and in the southern part of the African Continent. Everywhere the United States, in some places by itself and in others, so to speak, via its figureheads, is carrying out crude interference in the internal affairs of independent states. Everywhere it is pursuing a course aimed at undermining those regimes and governments which wish to pursue an independent, peace-loving foreign policy and to be the masters of their own homes.

Socialist countries -- Poland, Cuba and Vietnam -- are being subjected to open and -- let us say it frankly -- brazen pressure. The spearhead of the policy of imperialism is, of course, directed against our homeland. Imperialism cannot forgive our country for being the first in history to set out upon the path of the social and national liberation of peoples, to ignite the torch of socialism on our planet. Imperialism cannot forgive our country for being the first in history to set off along the path of consistent love of peace in foreign affairs and for effectively barring the way to supporters ot anti-popular military adventures.

The common aim of the imperialist forces is to halt the course of history, and even better to attempt to reverse it. This aim is, of course, not achievable. But the adherents of such a point of view are capable of inflicting great and irreparable damage upon mankind.

In his time Thomas Mann called anticommunism and anti-Sovietism the chief stupidity of the 20th century. It is now possible to say: Anti-Sovietism and anticommunism and the aggressive and militarist policy that is dictated by them have become in our age the chief danger for mankind.

The only realistic course in these conditions is a return to the policy of reason, the rejection of the policy of force and confrontation and the consistent affirmation in world policy of the principles of peaceful coexistence between states, regardless of their social structure.

This is precisely the foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state. "Not a preparation for war, condemning peoples to the senseless waste of their material and spiritual wealth, but a consolidation of peace -- this is the guideline leading into tomorrow." These words of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev at the 26th CPSU Congress express the essence of the foreign political ideal of our country. In them is essentially formulated the main theme for the activity of Soviet society, which is an uncompromising and convinced supporter of stable peace and cooperation between peoples.

The need to defend peace and strengthen the security of the peoples is obvious to everyone present, Boris Ponomarev said. But is this aim attainable? Is it possible to achieve a turnabout in world affairs towards ending confrontation, towards peaceful cooperation between states? Our answer to these questions is in the affirmative. Yes, it is possible to achieve such a turnabout.

The attention of millions of people in the world is currently on the new ideas and initiatives proposed by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev in his speeches at the 17th AUCCTU Congress and at the solemn session in Tashkent. This is a powerful source of light in that sinister darkness which is hanging over mankind as a result of the aggressive actions of the circles of imperialism and its instrument, NATO.

L. Brezhnev's speeches and proposals point to a way out of the blind alley into which these circles are leading international relations.

The Soviet proposals are not a request for peace. They are an appeal by the strong, an appeal for active struggle against the preparation and unleashing of a nuclear missile war. While speaking about these initatives, I would like to stress the following:

First, they are a logical continuation and development of the peace program for the 1980's set forth at the 26th CPSU Congress. They elaborate and give specific content to the provisions of this program and at the same time introduce new constructive elements into the sum total of Soviet foreign policy initiatives.

Second, the new ideas set forth by Leonid Brezhnev encompass precisely those issues that are of special importance in the present situation. They concern the key questions of the preservation and strengthening of peace, first of all in Europe but also in the world as a whole.

Third, this time Leonid Brezhnev announced concrete decisions adopted unilaterally by the Soviet Union and aimed at setting for the West an example of real actions to stop the nuclear arms race. I have in mind our decision to announce a moratorium on the deployment of medium-range nuclear armaments in the European part of the USSR and, if no new sharpening of the international situation occurs, to reduce on our own initiative during this year a certain number of medium-range missiles. Now the West must display goodwill on its part.

Fourth, of much importance are the views expressed by Leonid Brezhnev as regards relations between the USSR and India, Japan and China. The essence of these views is totally clear: Our country strives for an improvement of the situation in the West and in the East, in Europe and in Asia. We are for lasting peace and good cooperation among all the peoples of the great Asian Continent. We have never lacked and do not lack goodwill for this.

The reaction of influential foreign political and public circles to the new Soviet peace initiatives shows that this new and very convincing confirmation of the peacefulness of our socialist homeland is an important and extremely timely step.

At the same time, we cannot but be alerted by the response to our initiatives from Washington and a part of the ruling circles of some West European countries. There is only one thing concealed behind the attempts to belittle by any means the importance of our initiatives and to impute to the Soviet Union some nonexisting motives for the steps it has taken: refusal to renounce the course of confrontation and a desire to continue the race along the war path that is dangerous to mankind.

But there are also other forces on earth. They are becoming ever more active and raising their voice of protest against the reckless policy of the aggressors. Indeed, the present upsurge of the antiwar movement is without precedent.

The antiwar movement in Western Europe encompasses millions and millions of people representing virtually all sections of the public. We are witnessing the biggest explosion of truly popular indignation in the continent's history. It is aimed against the dangerous policy that threatens to destroy the fruits of the centuries-old European civilization.

It is important to emphasize that the antiwar movement in Europe is not carried out solely by individual actions, marches and meetings, no matter how impressive they might be. This movement is acquiring a permanent nature. It has entered the daily life of each West European country and has become an important sign of our time.

In recent months similar actions have occurred with growing frequency on the other continents as well.

It is not by chance that the aggressive circles of NATO countries -- which at first tried not to notice the antiwar movement, to ignore it -- have now become seriously alarmed. They are trying to use various ways and means to influence the peace forces and are attempting to compromise the champions of peace.

One of the most widely used of such methods is to accuse the participants in the antiwar struggle of supposedly serving as a "hand of Moscow." What is not being invented in the Atlantic propaganda headquarters to somehow substantiate this accusation that is absurd by its very nature? But all such attempts are in vain.

The present active participation of the peoples and their mass organizations in the solution of the problems of war and peace is first of all a result of the historical experience they have accumulated. Remembering the bitter lessons of the past world wars and aware of the grim dangers of thermonuclear conflict, the peoples of the world are displaying an increasingly firm determination to prevent a new tragedy. Mankind's conscience, its concern for its own future -- this is the motor of the present antiwar movement. And no one can stop the work of this mighty machine.

The task of the Soviet Committee for the Defense of Peace and its aktiv, Boris Ponomarev stressed, is to spread the truth about the peace-loving policy of our country, about our foreign policy initiatives, to the very widest circles of the foreign public, to conduct direct dialogue and to unmask anti-Soviet myths and prejudices.

The White House is trying with fanatical stubbornness to achieve the implementation of the NATO decision on the deployment of the new American missiles in the countries of Western Europe.

All means have been set in motion to bring this about by the autumn of 1983. For this reason the popular masses in Western Europe are rising. And indeed haste is needed. It is important that the defenders of peace use the time remaining to ensure that these instruments of death are not allowed on the soil of long-suffering Europe. But the significance is even broader -- warding off thermonuclear war, curtailing the arms race and ensuring secure peace for mankind. It is important for the broad masses in the West, on the entire planet, to see that the threat of war comes from the aggressive forces of imperialism and its instrument, NATO.

In conclusion, Boris Ponomarev said:

Truth is on our side, the truth about the Soviet Union's genuine love of peace and about the fact that the CPSU and the Soviet state are doing literally all within the power of man to prevent a new nuclear missile war.

On our side are the desire of the broad popular masses of the entire world for peace and their interest in preventing war and cutting short the production of arms which have achieved monstrous proportions.

Zorin Commentary

LD281346 Moscow in English to North America 0000 GMT 28 Mar 82

[From the "Moscow Viewpoint" program by Valentin Zorin, political observer for Soviet television and radio]

[Text] I think most if not all of us now realize that a nuclear war, should it ever begin, would be a terrible thing for us all wherever we may be. As for the men in Washington, they seem to have their own way dealing with this reality. They go out of their way to dull the apprehensions of the public at home over the appalling prospect of such a disaster, a prospect which preoccupies people in practically all other countries.

On my recent visit to the United States I had an opportunity to see some of that truly unprecedented propaganda campaign which is designed to prove to the public that Washington has to continue its build-up of arms, including nuclear arms, because of an alleged Soviet threat. The Americans are also made to believe that if a nuclear war does really begin it would be of a limited nature and would not affect the territory of the United States itself.

Today I would like to consider both these theories which are propagated by those U.S. quarters who have a vested interest in firing up international tension. In my several earlier talks in the series I have already considered the myth about an alleged Soviet military threat and gave facts to prove that such allegations hold no water. Taking up the subject again now, I'd simply like to say something fairly obvious. Had the Soviet Union been really hatching aggressive designs against the United States it would hardly waste so much time and effort all this time launching a whole range of constructive and absolutely practical proposals for ending the arms race and reducing the already existing nuclear arsenals. Over the past year alone the Soviet side launched several major initiatives of this kind. Addressing the 26th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party in February of last year, the Soviet Communist Party leader and head of state Leonid Brezhnev offered talks on imposing without delay a moratorium on the siting of new medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe by NATO and the Soviet Union. In other words it was proposed to put a freeze on the existing number and quality of such weapons. And before that and after long efforts the Soviet Union had secured the signing in Vienna of SALT II with the American side. This agreement was shelved not because the Soviet side did not want it but because U.S. leaders decided that they did not like it after all and refused to press for its ratification by the Senate.

They also turned down the Soviet offer of a moratorium on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe. On the problem of neutron weapons the Soviet side declared that this new and dangerous type of weapon must not be developed in the first place and then formally pledged that it would not be the first to produce them. As for the United States, President Reagan formally announced on 6 August of last year that he authorised full-scale production of neutron weapons. By doing so the President assumed the responsibility for starting a new spiral of the arms race.

At the session of the UN General Assembly last fall the Soviet side proposed a declaration proclaiming that countries and statesmen who decide to be the first to use nuclear weapons would be committing a grave crime against humanity. It is easy to see that a government getting ready to start a nuclear war would hardly make any such move because it would clearly be (?merely) counter-productive. But Washington chose to ignore the Soviet offer even despite the fact that it received massive international support.

I could easily continue listing such constructive Soviet proposals which demonstrate its goodwill and which were either ignored or turned down by Washington but I shall only give you one latest example. In a speech at the Soviet trade union congress a few days ago, President Leonid Brezhnev announced a major new Soviet initiative demonstrating our genuine desire to prevent the drift towards a nuclear catastrophe.

President Leonid Brezhnev said the Soviet Government has decided to introduce a unilateral moratorium on the deployment of medium-range nuclear missles in the European part of the Soviet territory. He said he'd put a freeze on the numbers and quality of such weapons already sited there. If there is no fresh change for the worse in the international situation, the Soviet Union will dismantle already this year a certain number of its medium-range missiles unilaterally. President Brezhnev said he was hopeful that the West would reciprocate to these Soviet moves by taking constructive steps of its own in the spirit of goodwill.

But the men in Washington do not even want to give any serious consideration to these important Soviet proposals and practical moves. Acting with some really indecent haste they rejected also this latest Soviet offer.

Such are the hard facts of the situation now. These facts can help one decide for himself who is firing up international tension and who really wants to put an end to it. It is easy to see which side is working hard to promote peace and which side is preoccupied with openly aggressive designs.

In considering these questions an unbiased individual will see that if there is a military threat in the world today, it comes not from Moscow but from Washington or rather from some men in Washington who now speak on behalf of the United States on the international arena. These Washington leaders are playing with nuclear fire not because of some Soviet threat but simply because they would like to impose their own will on the rest of the world. These people bargain with the destinies of nations for the sake of a handful of men who profit by the arms race.

Another myth which is being sold to the U.S. public now is that the United States will be able to escale the horrors of a nuclear war if it really begins. I for one think that one of the really most dangerous illusions of our time is the theory that a nuclear conflict can be contained within the boundaries of Europe, for example. In a speech at the Soviet trade union congress Leonid Brezhnev has warned that if U.S. missiles capable of hitting targets on Soviet territory are sited in Europe an entirely new strategic situation would be created in the world. He said this would create a tangible additional threat to the Soviet Union and its allies. This threat would come from the United States and we would have to retaliate with measures that would place the other side, including the United States and its territory, into a similar position. This is something one must not forget about, said the Soviet leader.

The men in the Pentagon must think it is supreme strategic wisdom to site American nuclear missiles as close as possible to targets on Soviet territory. They think that only the countries in which these missiles are sited will have to pay for this trick. But these men in the Pentagon either cannot or will not understand that by using these tactics they force the other side to take appropriate retaliatory measures that equalize the risk. A nuclear war is indivisible, so to speak; either we do not have it at all or its flames will engulf the whole world including the United States. Thus people who come out against the threat of nuclear war, for putting a freeze on nuclear arms, are really concerned about the future of all mankind including the American nation and I think it would be wrong for the Americans to think that this problem will be something resolved by the efforts of others. Their fate is in their own hands and the more then American public opinion is aware of this fact the better it will be for us all.

Bogachev Hits 'Belittling' Initiatives

LD261854 Moscow TASS in English 1827 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Problems of Stability in Europe" -- TASS headline; by TASS military news analyst Vladimir Bogachev]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar, TASS -- Medium-range nuclear weapons are becoming particularly destabilized if they are deployed in close proximity of the territory of another country possessing nuclear weapons, which are intended to restrain the aggressor.

If a conflict breaks out the country falling victim to an act of agression will have to take the decision on retaliation literally within 3-4 minutes after receiving warning of an attack. Any error in evaluating the character of the attack -- and it is hard to avoid making it during those 3-4 minutes -- may be fatal for Earth.

That is why NATO's plans to deploy in Western Europe American cruise missiles and Pershing II's capable of delivering the first counter-force strike at targets on the territory of the Warsaw Treaty's only nuclear power, the Soviet Union, pose a grave threat to peace.

That is why the attempts of the Western propagandists to under-rate the importance of the Soviet Union's decision to introduce unilaterally a moratorium on the deployment of medium-range nuclear weapons in the European part of the USSR cause nothing but puzzlement.

Following the logic of the NATO leadership, reflected in the latest communique of the nuclear planning group of that aggressive bloc, the Soviet medium-range missiles are equally dangerous to Western Europe whether they are deployed in Europe or Asia because they are presumably capable of hitting targets on the territories of the European NATO members in any event.

Carried away by their propaganda appeal, the NATO spokesmen are trying to discredit the new Soviet peace initiatives and belittle the great importance of the time factor in using nuclear weapons, but they have no reason to do so.

For instance, if the NATO countries unilaterally took the decision to redeploy their aircraft-carrying nuclear forces and missile-carrying submarines to a considerable distance from the European shores, this initiative could be only welcomed.

Regrettably, however, the problem of military stability in Europe worries but little Washington, which is seeking to turn the West European countries into a lightening rod receiving retaliation in case of a conflict. It is, perhaps, this view that explains the stubborness with which Washington is trying to belittle the importance of the new Soviet initiatives aimed at stabilizing the military and political situation in Europe, and refusing to reach a mutually acceptable decision on medium-range nuclear weapons on the continent.

IZVESTIYA Editorial

PM290857 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Mar 82 Morning Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Course Toward Lasting Peace"]

[Excerpts] Socialism and peace are inseparable concepts. This was shown with all certainty by the 26th CPSU Congress, which demonstrated the great power of the Leninist party's influence on the course of world historical development in the interests of peace and social progress. The peace program for the eighties elaborated by the congress is aimed at reducing nuclear missiles and conventional weapons and at settling existing and averting new conflicts and crisis situations and is imbued with the desire to deepen detente.

However, at present the international situation as a whole is complex and acute and inspires alarm. The U.S. course toward further inflamation of the international atmosphere, inflation of the arms race and destruction of normal ties between states does not augur any good for any people, including the American people. For that reason such a course cannot obtain support for the peoples and has no future.

As for the Soviet Union, as Comrade L.I. Brezhnev has stressed, it is firmly and unwaveringly maintaining a course toward a lasting peace and peaceful and mutually advantageous cooperation between all states regardless of their social and political system.

Soviet people do not see the future in terms of unlimited buildup of mountains of weapons but in terms of achieving sensible accords with the other side on the mutual reduction of the level of military confrontation. The problem of reducing nuclear weapons in Europe deserves special attention. This is the key question.

In his speech at the 17th Congress of USSR Trade Unions Comrade L.I. Brezhnev put forward new peace initiatives of truly invaluable significance for the fate of all mankind. These proposals give expression to the good will of the Soviet people to preserve and consolidate peace on Earth. In an attempt to facilitate the achievement of a just agreement on a large-scale reduction of the nuclear facilities of both sides in Europe, and wishing to show a good example, the Soviet leadership adopted the decision to introduce a unilateral moratorium on the deployment of medium-range nuclear missiles in the European part of the USSR. The Soviet Union is freezing such weapons already deployed here both in the quantitative and qualitative sense, and is halting the replacement of older missiles such as the SS-4 and SS-5 with the newer SS-20. This moratorium will operate either until an agreement is reached with the United States on reducing the medium-range nuclear facilities destined for Europe, on the basis of equality and identical security or until the U.S. leaders, disregarding the security of the peoples, begin practical preparation for the deployment in Europe of the Pershing II and cruise missiles, regardless.

On the attainment of an agreed moratorium between the two sides, the Soviet Union would be ready as a sign of good will to unilaterally reduce the number of its nuclear facilities in Europe on the strength of a future agreed reduction. Now the USSR has adopted the decision to take a new step, thereby demonstrating its will for peace and its belief in the possibility of a mutually acceptable agreement. The Soviet Union intends to reduce on its own initiative a certain number of its medium-range missiles this year, unless there is any new aggravation of the international situation.

At the same time the USSR gives perfectly clear warning that if the governments of the United States and its NATO allies, flouting the will of the peoples for peace, were still to carry out their plans to deploy hundreds of new American missiles in Europe, capable of striking targets on USSR territory, a different strategic situation would emerge in the world. A real additional threat to our country and its allies from the United States would emerge. This would force the USSR to take retaliatory measures which would put the other side, including the United States and its territory directly in a similar position.

The Soviet Union calls on the U.S. Government not to create artificial obstacles to the talks on strategic arms limitation and to get down to them in the near future, but before they are resumed it proposes that both sides assume a mutual pledge -- not to open up a new arms race channel and not to deploy long-range sea-launched and ground-launched cruise missiles.

The Soviet Union would be ready to negotiate on the mutual limitation of naval operations. In particular, it would consider it possible to agree on the withdrawal of both sides' missile-carrying submarines from their current extensive patrol areas and the restriction of their navigation within mutually agreed boundaries. The USSR would also be ready to discuss the question of extending confidence-building measures to certain areas of the seas and oceans, especially those regions through which the busiest sea lanes pass.

Soviet people warmly approve the new peace-loving initiative of the Leninist party and the Soviet state, which are doing everything possible to justify the hopes of our country's working people and the whole of mankind for a lasting peace and a clear sky above our peaceful planet.

Grigoryev on Naval Operations

LD281348 Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Among the new Soviet peace initiatives advanced by President Leonid Brezhnev at the recent congress of Soviet trade unions is the proposal on a mutual limitation of naval operations. Here is what a RADIO MOSCOW military observer, Col Eduard Grigoryev, writes.

It is clear to every soberminded person that the present situation in the world demands maximum restraint in the military activity of the two blocs opposing each other. There should be restraint in all fields -- on land, in the air, space and the world ocean. Speaking about the world ocean one has to bear in mind that today thousands of warships from different countries are cruising the seas and oceans. That includes submarines with multiple nuclear warhead missiles, aircraft carriers with planes equipped with nuclear weapons and missile cruisers. The only legal limitation for their operations is that they cannot enter the territorial waters of other countries. That is not much of a protection to them [as heard] since a missile on a submarine can reach a target thousands of miles away and an aircraft carrier does not have to be close to the shore for its planes to strike at regions deep inside a coastal country. So finding a barrier to the growing naval operations in the oceans is indeed a pressing problem. That is why the Soviet Union has suggested coming to terms on the mutual limitation of naval operations. For instance the Soviet Union believes that there could be an agreement on withdrawing missile submarines of the two sides from the present vast areas of combat patrolling and limiting their cruising to mutually agreed upon boundaries. The Soviet leader also said that the Soviet Union would be ready to discuss the question of spreading confidence-building measures to seas and oceans and especially to the regions where the more busy sea routes lie. In other words, the Soviet Union is for turning the biggest possible part of the world ocean into a zone of peace already in the nearest future.

Such an approach of the Soviet Union to the problem of the world ocean shows its concern for the interests of the entire international community. It is also a sharp contrast to the course conducted by the United States. Washington proclaims vast parts of the world ocean spheres of its vital interests and builds up its military presence there. As a result the Persian Gulf the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean have become regions where U.S. naval forces are concentrated, and that increases tension and instability in international relations. Would it not be better for peace and security, and also for the safety of sea routes and shipping, to come to an agreement on a mutual reduction of the military activity of the countries? And that could be done on the basis of respect of the lawful interests of all countries and on the principle of equality and equal security. The governments should sit down at the negotiating table and calmly and responsibly discuss the proposals on limiting the use of the world ocean for military purposes. That is what the Soviet Union is suggesting. An agreement on the mutual limitation of naval operations would be a big contribution to preventing a thermonuclear catastrophe.

BLOC EXPERTS CONFER ON POLITICAL COOPERATION

PM241619 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 82 p 4

[Unattributed report: "International Conference"]

[Text] An international theoretical conference entitled "Topical Problems of Further Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Socialist Countries' All-Round Cooperation at the Present Stage," organized by the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences, ended its work in Moscow on 18 March. Scientists from Bulgaria, Hungary, the SRV, the GDR, Cuba, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the USSR and the CSSR examined questions of the development of international socialist relations and political cooperation among the fraternal countries in the struggle for peace and the peoples' security, the intensification of socialist economic integration, the improvement of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the ideological, cultural, scientific and other spheres of the community countries' social life in the light of the 26th CPSU Congress decisions and the fraternal parties' congresses.

The conference was addressed by V.A. Medvedev, rector of the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences; K.V. Kves, rector of the CPCZ Central Committee Advanced Politics School; J. Szabo, rector of the MSZMP Central Committee Central Party School; O.A. Chukanov, CPSU Central Committee deputy section chief; Academician O.T. Bogomolov; and scholars from the fraternal socialist countries.

CEMA PANEL DISCUSSES ROBOTS, MICROPROCESSORS

PM261529 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Mar 82 p 5

[TASS report: "CEMA Committee Session"]

[Text] The 25th session of the CEMA Committee for Scientific and Technical Cooperation took place in Moscow 18-19 March.

The progress of the implementation of measures to fulfill resolutions adopted by the CEMA Executive Committee at its 102d session was examined. The committee devoted particular attention to examining the preliminary draft of a general agreement on multilateral cooperation in the elaboration and organization of specialized and cooperative production of industrial robots and approved methodological materials for the elaboration of technology substantiated technical requirements for automatic manipulators with program control (industrial robots).

A significant place in the committee's work was also alloted to examination of the draft cooperation program for 1982-1990 for the development and extensive utilization in the CEMA countries' national economies of microprocessor technology. Its implementation will result in the startup of production of a wide range of automatic equipment, machines, instruments and control systems for machine building, the power industry, metallurgy, agriculture, transport, education and other sectors of the national economy of the CEMA countries being built in microprocessor units.

The committee also examined other questions of scientific and technical cooperation among the CEMA countries.

The session took place in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding and constructive, comradely cooperation.

'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE' 28 MAR

LD281510 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0945 GMT 28 Mar 82

["International Observers Roundtable" program with Doctor of Historical Sciences Vladimirovich Zhurkin, deputy director of the Institute of the United States and Canada; Nikolay Vladimirovich Shishlin, international affairs journalist; and Viktor Nikolayevich Levin, foreign policy commentator for Moscow Radio]

Brezhnev Tashkent Speech

[Text] [Levin] Hello respected comrade listeners. You know that this week ceremonies were held in Uzbekistan devoted to the conferring upon this republic of the Order of Lenin, one of the homeland's high awards, and at these ceremonies Leonid Ilich Brezhnev delivered a vivid speech. The external-political aspect of this speech can serve as yet another convincing confirmation of the consistent implementation of the peace program for the eighties formulated by the 26th CPSU Congress. Our policy, said Comrade Brezhnev, is a policy of strengthening peace and of firmly rebuffing the enemies of peace, a policy of peaceful cooperation with all who desire it, a policy of fraternal friendship with the countries of socialism, of solidarity with all the forces of social progress, of defense of the sovereign rights of peoples. In the complex conditions of the present international situation, the economic and defensive might of the Soviet Union and its socialist allies, their endurance and self-assurance and their consistently peace-loving policies stand out with particular clarity before all peoples as the main obstacle in the path of the warmongers and the main bulwark of peace on Earth. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech in Tashkent evoked a very broad international reaction. With full justification it has been assessed as yet another convincing, vivid manifestation of the peace-loving foreign policy course of the Soviet Union, and if we, for instance, compare this speech with the speech delivered by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev a week earlier at the 17th AUCCTU Congress, a very broad panorama is revealed of the foreign policy activity of the Soviet Union on literally all continents and in all important international events.

[Shishlin] It seems to me that in these latest statements of principle of Leonid Ilich there is one feature that stands out with particular clarity, namely this: The Soviet Union is not only putting forward interesting, meaningful ideas on how to approach key international problems but also backing up these ideas with a clear demonstration of its political good will. This is not merely words or slogans, it is action by the Soviet Union, specific action aimed at strengthening peace, be it in Europe or Asia. As is well known, in the Tashkent speech our foreign policy toward Asia was presented fairly extensively, and in essence the Soviet Union's viewpoint was set out on mutual relations with all the countries of Asia and on ways of strengthening peace on that continent as a whole.

PRC Policy, Relations

But as you have noticed, comrades, of course particular interest was aroused by setting out the Soviet conception of mutual relations with such a great country as the PRC. Here Leonid Ilich, as you know, reaffirmed the immutability of the course of the 25th and 26th party congresses concerning relations with China, and the essence of this course lies in the fact that we recognize both the negative, dark sides of Chinese policy and at the same time consider it vital to hold the door open for a possible improvement in relations with that country.

[Levin] I want to remind you in particular of the fact that Leonid Ilich Brezhnev stressed that we have never tried to interfere in the PRC's internal affairs. We have never supported, nor do we now support the so-called concept of two Chinas in any form. We have fully recognized and recognize the PRC's sovereignty over the island of Taiwan. The Soviet Union has not been any threat to the PRC nor is it now. We have not had and we do not have any territorial claims against the PRC. We are ready at any time to continue talks on the border questions in order to achieve mutually acceptable solutions. And, finally, we have never considered the state of hostility and alienation between our countries to be normal. We are prepared to negotiate without any preconditions on measures, acceptable to both sides, to improve Soviet-Chinese relations on the basis of respect for the interests of each other, noninterference in each other's affairs and mutual advantage, so long, of course, as third countries are not harmed.

[Zhurkin] I think that these words "so long, of course, as third countries are not harmed" highlight very clearly a characteristic feature of the Soviet Union's approach to the development of relations with other states. This contrasts totally, for example, with the basis on which many Western countries, in particular the United States, want to arrange their relations with China. They openly proclaim that improvement of relations with the PRC and the development of relations with it must be based on anti-Soviet foundations. They talk about the identity of the strategic interests of China and the United States. They talk about the possibility of U.S. military assistance to the PRC. In other words they talk about making a possible normalization an element in the complication and deterioration of the international situation, making it an element in a policy that will lead to the formation of a new system of acute international crisis situations in that region of the world.

Our Soviet approach differs in principle from such an approach. Our approach is based on the principles of equality, on the principles of mutual advantage, on principles in which our two peoples have an interest and in which the peoples of other countries should also have an interest.

[Shishlin] Unfortunately one has to say that China's first reaction to the ideas put forward by Comrade Brezhnev in Tashkent has been cool, to put it mildly. There has not been any detailed response from China to these ideas yet. But a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman spoke in rather reserved terms about these ideas. Although he did not exactly enter into any long explanations, he declared that China judges the policy of the Soviet Union by its actions. But the actions of the Soviet Union are viewed in China through inverted binoculars, as it were. They read into these actions things which are not there.

The Soviet approach to these matters does not of course prevent us from saying what we think about Chinese policy. For example, we cannot approve of actions by China which are directed against Socialist Vietnam. We cannot concur with such Chinese actions as its aggression against the SRV. We cannot concur with the line which China is now following toward the Pol Pot regime in trying to galvanize it somehow or other and trying to create some combination out of all the Kampuchean reactionaries in order to hamper the development of revolutionary Kampuchea, true stabilization there, and the normalization of socio-economic and political affairs. Nevertheless I think that we should exercise a certain amount of patience here. China's first reaction to these proposals is not of course the last word on Chinese policy.

This is all the more so in that the situation in China itself continues to be in flux. I would describe China's internal affairs as intense, tempestuous, complex and marked by a serious struggle in the top echelons of the Chinese leadership.

[Levin] So, one could also say that they are dramatic.

[Shishlin] They are unquestionably dramatic as well. And when the Chinese leaders are deciding their foreign policy, they can of course never disregard the problem of relations with our country, a problem of fundamental and vital importance for China. Smoother and calmer Soviet-Chinese relations would of course be a good thing for the Chinese people.

SRV Party Congress

[Levin] And a good thing for all China's neighbors. Nikolay Vladimirovich, you mentioned China's aggressive operations against Socialist Vietnam. You know, comrades, that the 5th Vietnamese Communist Party Congress opened in Hanoi yesterday.

The representatives of 1.7 million Vietnamese Communists are discussing the vital problems which the country faces, problems which, as a result of Chinese aggression and China's policy toward Kampuchea -- the policy of support for the surviving Pol Pot men as our Vietnamese comrades are stressing -- are making life difficult. The previous congress was held in December 1976. It was the first forum of communists since total victory over external and internal anti-popular forces and since the country had been united into a single socialist state. The fourth congress put forward a program for the construction of socialism in peaceful circumstances and laid down the party's strategic line: to transform Vietnam into a modern industrial state with a mighty defense and advanced culture and science. But Chinese policies have not allowed these tasks to be carried out in peaceful circumstances.

[Shishlin] Yes, Chinese policies above all, of course.

[Zhurkin] And the policies of international imperialism, because the United States is now clearly attempting to return to Indochina, to return to these regions of the world.

[Shishlin] No doubt, the Americans hang on more tightly to the coattails of the ASEAN countries when the ASEAN countries show a desire to place their relations with Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea on a calmer footing. No doubt, the American grip here is stronger than even Beijing's although they are both hanging on together. But, to go back to the Vietnamese congress, we should, of course, take a good look at the balance sheet which our Vietnamese comrades are taking to their highest forum. Overall, we can say that it is positive, for despite external and internal difficulties which really are not imaginary, Vietnam has commenced its new 5-year plan fairly well. They have achieved a certain success in solving the most difficult and acute problem, the problem of foodstuffs. The agricultural season last year was not bad. Our Vietnamese comrades have learned a great deal about socialist economic management.

[Levin] One would be fully justified in counting among the assets acquired by socialist Vietnam between the 4th and 5th VCP Congresses such factors as the adoption of the new constitution -- 20 million people took part in discussing it. Incidentally, the total population of Vietnam is 54 million, and this active involvement of the broadest masses in the discussion of the constitution was a very great political success. One should also mention on the credit side the fact that in 1978 the SRV became a member of CEMA. Again, of course, when we speak of economic achievements -- and we have every justification and grounds for speaking about them -- we should also understand the difficult circumstances, internal circumstances, I have in mind here in which these achievements are being realized. Note the following figures, comrades: In 1975, before the liberation of South Vietnam, there were more than 3 million unemployed. During the 5 years between 1976 and 1980, approximately 4.2 million people obtained jobs in the production sector. About 1.5 million people moved to the new economic zones where they have worked on land reclamation and have started developing 500,000 hectares of land. But the problem of providing jobs for everyone remains a fairly acute one in Vietnam today, and, in a review of the work done in the period between the 4th and 5th VCP Congresses the VNA news agency says bluntly that the unemployment level remains high in all branches of the national economy. This is the legacy of the recent past, and it shows once again that Vietnam is starting off from a very difficult position, and the headway which the congress delegates are now talking about with full justification is thus all the more significant.

[Shishlin] There is another angle here: that the example of Vietnam -- and one could take the example of any country in Asia -- is further testimony to how vitally important for Asia as a continent, just as for other parts of the world, are conditions of peace and the concentration of efforts on creative objects. And, in point of fact, herein lies the pathos and the sense of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's whole Tashkent speech: We really do advocate the normalization of the political climate in Asia, something which would also of course be exceedingly useful for smoothing out international relations in general.

Soviet-Japanese Relations

I do not think we should pass over the very interesting thoughts expressed concerning the development of Soviet-Japanese relations. The reserve here is enormous.

[Zhurkin] Indeed Soviet-Japanese relations have for a long time been going through a rather difficult period. It has somehow happened that the leading circles in Japan, an economically powerful country -- a country which in a number of areas, for instance, has overtaken the United States; today the Japanese produce more cars; in some areas of high technology they have overtaken the Americans -- this country with powerful economic potential sometimes behaves in the international arena simply as if it follows orders from Washington alone.

During 1980 and 1981, on a whole series of problems, the Japanese Government generally followed the U.S. Government's lead in spite of certain disagreements, particularly over economic differences which exist between these countries. One would like to hope that Japanese foreign policy will correspond more to the genuine national interests of this huge, economically powerful state, which has been and remains a sizeable economic partner of the Soviet Union, and which could be an even better partner for us in the future, in the eighties.

[Levin] Vitaliy Vladimirovich, this is perhaps just the place to touch on yet another aspect of the question, since, as is well known, in his speech in Tashkent Leonid Ilich Brezhnev expressed the Soviet Union's good will toward developing relations with Japan without proposing any preliminary conditions. But now that this speech has become known in Japan, as the paper YOMIURI wrote, referring to circles in the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, they are trying to put forward preliminary conditions which patently hinder the development of our relations. What is more, by preliminary conditions they mean the absolutely artificial problem of the northern territories. This problem is being artificially nurtured by the leaders of Japan solely in order to create some sort of politico-psychological base -- if I may put it this way -- for worsening relations with the Soviet Union and whipping up the arms race, which incidentally is something which has lately been energetically manifesting itself in Japan. But there again one would like to believe that in Tokyo Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech will be attentively studied, and that nobody will hasten to draw negative conclusions.

[Shishlin] There is no doubt that good cooperation, not only economic, but also political, between the Soviet Union and Japan would be a boon for the Far Eastern and Pacific Ocean region. In this, of course, the Soviet Union is certainly not in favor of, let us say, making relations more complex between Japan and China, the United States, or other countries. We really do not want an improvement in Soviet-Japanese relations at the expense of third countries, but both the Soviet Union and Japan have opportunities to deepen their mutual links, deepen them in their mutual interests.

Nuclear Arms Moratorium

[Levin] The common denominator of all the peaceful initiatives made by the Soviet Union during the 26th party congress is the solution of the main problem, of the main question, which is that of averting the danger of nuclear war and curbing the arms race, including the nuclear missile armaments race in Europe. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev spoke very fully and in detail on this subject at the AUCCTU Congress, and the most important initiatives put forward by the Soviet Union -- and in the field of nuclear missile armaments this means above all the Soviet Union's decision to introduce unilaterally a moratorium on the deployment of its own medium-range nuclear missiles in the European part of the Soviet Union, and another thing that it is essential to stress, the Soviet Union's decision to cut back a certain number of its medium-range missiles as early as this year if there is no new deterioration in the international situation -- these initiatives naturally are arousing the broadest interest. It is no accident that even at the session of the NATO Nuclear Planning Group held this week in Colorado Springs, all the indications are that the question of the Soviet initiatives was a fairly critical one.

This Nuclear Planning Group is not of course the kind of body that could make any decision indicating that the points of view have moved closer together. The Nuclear Planning Group was set up to facilitate the nuclear armament of NATO. But the very fact that they spoke about the Soviet Union's initiatives there is noteworthy. It emphasizes that the West European states are at least trying, it seems to me, not to make a hasty negative reply to the Soviet initiatives, as the U.S. administration is obviously doing.

[Zhurkin] On the whole one has to say that the decisions of the nuclear planning group were disappointing. Well, what was this, an ultimatum? In general the Soviet Union cannot be addressed in the language of ultimatums. What are the United States and the countries of West Europe, which have followed the U.S. lead in this case, offering? They are saying: Accept Reagan's so-called zero option. That's all there is to it. So far there have been absolutely no moves toward compromise.

But agreements are not reached without compromise and attempts to work out mutually acceptable solutions. Since the 26th congress, the Soviet Union has put forward a whole series of proposals, clarifications and other peace initiatives in this field. It has to be stated that they are receiving ever wider support in West Europe.

Nevertheless, in some areas the Reagan administration is still managing to put pressure on the governments of the bigger countries of West Europe. Generally speaking, this is currently in line with the U.S. approach to West Europe. The Reagan administration is continually facing West Europe with the following choice: Either you are with us or against us. Well, from time to time the West European governments do retreat in the face of this pressure. But it is becoming increasingly difficult to retreat under U.S. pressure. This is because of opposition from very broad circles of public opinion in West Europe, because of the political difficulties which this is causing for the West European governments, and, finally, because of the elementary fact that everybody is aware that the stationing of new U.S. medium-range missiles in West Europe will indeed exacerbate the situation and could increase the threat of war in this region.

[Shishlin] I think that, although the Soviet proposals are of course addressed directly to the United States, they are also addressed in other directions to those very same West European countries allied to the United States in NATO which have their own, independent voice in foreign policy or at least should have an independent voice in foreign policy, since these countries should decide their destinies for themselves.

U.S. Antiwar Movement

These proposals are of course being studied and examined by ruling circles. There has been a definite reaction to these proposals, from the nuclear planning group, for example. As you quite rightly said, the reaction was disappointing. But it is also interesting that these proposals have indeed been more than noted by various circles of international public opinion, including circles which, incidentally, are far from being in sympathy with the Soviet Union. Take for example the campaign for freezing nuclear weapons that is underway in the United States. This is an interesting development.

[Zhurkin] I think on the whole that this antiwar movement in the United States is a completely new phenomenon. Let's be frank. After the end of the war in Indochina there was an obvious decline in the antiwar movement in the United States. There had been massive demonstrations by very large numbers of people, in which the populace and even certain representatives of the ruling class took part. Subsequently a decline set in. Gradually the antiwar movement picked up, and today we are witnessing what I would call a kind of qualitative leap forward. In the first place, there is the campaign for a nuclear freeze, as they call it. Then there is the campaign against an increase in military expenditure. It has to be said that very different forces have united in this campaign. In particular, it has also united people who are simply opposed to the huge deficit in the U.S. budget. The only way to cut this deficit is to trim military expenditure. Some people are protesting from an anti-war standpoint. It is a characteristic fact that the business world has spoken out against an increase in military spending. Some of the business world's biggest organizations -- the so-called business roundtable with a membership of 200 major U.S. corporations; the National Association of Manufacturers, which draws its membership more from medium and small businesses; the American Business Conference, which represents medium-sized businesses; and the American Chamber of Commerce which is an organization of corporations of various sizes -- have all made critical statements about the enormous military spending which the Reagan administration has planned for the coming 5-year period and have expressed their opposition to the fantastic sum of $1.64 trillion in military spending over 5 years. So it really does seem to me that we are currently witnessing something new -- a movement which could grow still further. And this movement, as it seems to me, is an element of the general intensification of the campaign in the United States and especially in West Europe against the militaristic military policy of Washington and NATO. As the deadline set by Washington for the deployment of medium-range American missiles in West Europe approaches, the campaign against this decision is increasing in intensity.

[Levin] And of course in these circumstances the Soviet Union's peaceful initiatives have an outstanding role to play, because by contrast with American policies what we have to offer is a very clearly defined, very clear and very constructive position. Eppler, a prominent figure in the German SPD -- he is a member of its presidium — has said that the Soviet Union recently made an enormous number of new proposals. Incidentally, it has been calculated that our country has submitted more than 100 such proposals.

At the same time the Americans have done absolutely nothing to change their position. They have dug in their heels over this so-called zero option of Reagan's and want to do nothing to bring the two viewpoints closer together, to seek a solution on the only possible basis, the basis of the equality and equal security of the sides.

And in these difficult circumstances the CPSU and the Soviet Government, as Leonid Ilich Brezhnev stressed in his speech at the 17th Trade Union Congress, are conscientiously carrying out the mandate of the people and are doing everything in their power to justify the hopes of the working people of our country, and of mankind as a whole, for a stable peace and for clear skies over the peaceful planet Earth.

Thank you for your attention, esteemed comrades. All the best.

U.S., NATO ALLIES 'SLANDER' POLAND AT EEC SESSION

LD261302 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2258 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Geneva, 25 Mar (TASS) -- Questions of economic, commercial, scientific and technical cooperation are being discussed by those taking part in the session of the UN European Economic Commission being held here.

A number of delegates noted the importance of the development of international trade and the inadmissibility of putting artificial obstacles in its way.

But the businesslike character of the sesion of the European Economic Commission does not suit the United States and certain of its NATO partners. The delegations of the United States, Belgium and also Canada made an unbridled anti-Polish sally at the session, and crudely slandered the Polish People's Republic and the USSR.

The representatives of Poland, the USSR, the GDR and the CSSR rebuked these slanderous attacks and decisively opposed attempts to lead the session of the European Economic Commission aside from the tasks facing it and to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

"Polish affairs have been and will be settled by the Poles themselves," said the head of the Soviet delegation, Deputy Foreign Minister N.P. Firyubin. "The sortie of the U.S. delegation is a most crude violation of the norms of international law, the UN Charter and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe." The USSR representative called on the participants in the session to concentrate their attention on a constructive resolution of the talks of economic cooperation facing the European Economic Commission.

'DEMONSTRATION' OF U.S. FLAG IN BLACK SEA ASSAILED

LD271448 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1400 GMT 27 Mar 82

[By TASS commentator Valeriy Kostylev]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Mar (TASS) -- On Friday two American warships entered the Black Sea. The aim of the action according to the definition of its organizers was to "show the flag" in the international waters of this sea. The provocative character of this step cannot be doubted. It was taken in the direct proximity of the frontiers of the Soviet Union and other socialist states.

The "demonstration" of the American flag in the Black Sea, obviously directed at aggravating international tension, cannot be regarded in isolation from the arms race and the whipping up of an atmosphere of "anti-detente" unleashed by the United States.

Washington's aim is to maintain on the European Continent a climate of a continual war alert, mistrust and tension which, according to the cynical revelations of the Washington politicians, can better than anything else "quell" the wave of protests against the dangerous course of the United States toward confrontation and turning Western Europe into a launching pad for American nuclear missiles.

However, the international situation is now too dangerous to rattle arms in direct proximity to other people's frontiers. It requires maximum restraint in their military activity by both opposing blocs of states.

This is precisely why the Soviet Union has put forward a proposal to agree on a mutual restriction on the operations of naval fleets. The USSR would also be ready to discuss the question of extending confidence-building measures to the waters of the seas and oceans, especially those regions through which the busiest shipping routes pass.

Washington, however, is ignoring these initiatives which are imbued with a concern for strengthening peace. Furthermore, the ostentatious despatch of U.S. warships into the Black Sea makes it quite obvious that in the U.S. capital they are continuing to place their stakes on undermining detente.

U.S. TO DUMP OLD SUBMARINES IN OCEAN

LD280958 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] The U.S. Department of the Navy is currently working on plans for disposing of old American submarines by dumping them on the bottom of the sea. So far these plans concern five submarines which are to be dumped in the Pacific or in the Atlantic. Press reports say that in future this number may increase significantly.

PRAVDA COMMENTS ON U.S. CHEMICAL WEAPONS POLICY

LD290752 Moscow TASS in English 0640 GMT 29 Mar 82

["Sinister Designs" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 29 Mar, TASS -- The U.S. administration's decision to launch mass production of chemical weapons has demonstrated once again the dangerous nature of Washington's militarist course, PRAVDA writes today. The programme of "chemical rearmament" of the United States, connected with a direct preparation of a material base for chemical warfare, gives cause for mounting concern to peoples, especially in Europe.

The public alarm is enhanced by the fact that the United States was the only country out of 157 United Nations member-states which voted against the adoption of the resolution calling to refrain from the production and deployment of new types of chemical weapons and their stationing in the territory of states which do not have them at present.

The United States now possesses enormous stockpiles of chemical weapons estimated at 150-300,000 tons which will be expanded as new types will be produced. American generals are sure that it will not be too difficult to "persuade" the NATO allies to turn Western Europe, in particular, into a "storehouse" of toxic agents.

Pointing out that chemical weapons are extremely dangerous for civilians not only during chemical warfare but also in the process of storing, the newspaper stresses that, according to American data, about a thousand leakages of gases from ammunition has occurred since 1967 in storages in the territory of the United States and other countries.

In connection with the slanderous fabrications about the USSR's 'involvement' in the use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan and Indochina the newspaper writes that Washington needed these hypocritical and cheap propaganda ploys to condition American public opinion to the proclamation of the multi-billion dollar programme of "chemical rearmament" of the United States, and the Europeans to the possibility of waging a chemical war in Europe.

CIA 'GANGSTERISM' TERRORIST OPERATIONS CONDEMNED

LD262154 Moscow TASS in English 1950 GMT 26 Mar 82

["CIA: Gangsterism in Developing Countries" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Prague, 26 Mar, TASS -- Huge scopes of international gangsterism of the CIA in developing countries are mentioned in the April issue of the journal PROBLEMS OF PEACE AND SOCIALISM (the English edition of WORLD MARXIST REVIEW) which appears in Prague.

Pointing out that from 1961 to 1976 the CIA carried out some 900 secret operations against leaders and governments that are not favoured by the U.S., the journal writes that the CIA's activity is not limited to [word indistinct], to masterminding political and other provocations. The CIA takes active part in psychological warfare, which is a means of interference in internal affairs of other peoples. The CIA is responsible for stirring up tribal strife and separatism in the national liberation zone.

The CIA's activity is conducted not against the will, but with the knowledge and under general guidance of the Washington administration, the journal writes. A new stage in the history of the espionage agency started when Ronald Reagan became the tenant of the White House. One of the first steps of the President was the proposal to lift even those insignificant limitations that as a rule, remain on paper, which have been introduced in the seventies and to widen the CIA's power.

With the blessing of the White House, the CIA started working out further terroristic and sabotage operations, takes the road of the escalation of lawlessness, of opposition to the national liberation movements and gross interference in internal affairs of sovereign states. Among the CIA's priority aims now is to use the anti-Cuban emigrants who got entrenched in the USA for new terroristic actions, to arm the remnants of the Pol Pot gangs operating against the lawful government of Kampuchea, to stage plots and assassinations of leaders of developing states, the journal writes.

PRC GIVES NEGATIVE REPLY TO BREZHNEV PROPOSAL

OW261349 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1230 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] At a press conference held in Beijing on 26 March, a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry expressed the Chinese leaders' negative attitude toward Soviet leader Comrade Brezhnev's constructive proposal on improving Soviet-Chinese relations presented in his speech delivered in Tashkent on 24 March.

Regarding Soviet-Chinese relations, Comrade Brezhnev pointed out in his speech delivered in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekstan: The principled position of our party and of the Soviet state on the question of Soviet-Chinese relations was clearly set forth in the decisions of the 25th and 26th CPSU Congress. I would like here to mention additionally the following key issues:

First, despite the fact that we openly criticized and continue to criticize many aspects of the policy, especially foreign policy, of the Chinese leadership as being at variance with socialist principles and standards, we have never tried to interfere in the internal life of the People's Republic of China. We did not deny and do not deny now the existence of a socialist social system in China, although Beijing's joining with the policy of imperialists in the world arena contradicts the interests of socialism.

Second, we have never supported and we do not now support in any form the so-called concept of two Chinas and have fully recognized and continue to recognize the PRC's sovereignty over Taiwan.

Third, there has not been and there is no threat to the People's Republic of China from the Soviet Union. We have not had and do not have any territorial claims on the PRC and we are ready, at any moment, to continue talks on existing border questions for the purpose of reaching mutually acceptable decisions. We are also ready to discuss the question of possible measures to strengthen mutual trust in the area of the Soviet-Chinese frontier.

Fourth, we remember well the time when the Soviet Union and People's China were united by bonds of friendship and comradely cooperation. We have never considered as normal the state of hostility and estrangement between our countries.

Comrade Brezhnev continued: We are prepared to come to terms, without any preliminary conditions, on measures acceptable to both sides to improve Soviet-Chinese relations on the basis of mutual respect for each other's interests, noninterference in each other's affairs and mutual benefit -- certainly, not to the detriment of third countries. This refers to economic, scientific and cultural, as well as political relations. This depends on what concrete steps and on what scale both sides are ready to take in any of these spheres.

People Not Told

LD261352 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in English to Asia 1330 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Excerpt] A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the PRC has made a statement on the proposals to improve Soviet-Chinese relations contained in the address delivered by Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev on March 24 in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. Judging by the statement released by XINHUA, the reaction in Beijing is negative.

The Chinese mass media has not made known what the Soviet side proposed. It failed to tell the Chinese that the Soviet leader stated that the Soviet Union was prepared without preliminary conditions to come to an agreement on mutually acceptable measures to improve Soviet-Chinese relations on the basis of mutual respect for the interests of each other, noninterference in the affairs of each other and mutual benefit without detriment to third sides.

Glebov Commentary

OW280629 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1430 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] A spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry has shown a negative attitude toward Comrade Brezhnev's explicit and constructive proposal designed to improve Soviet-Chinese relations. Glebov, this station's observer on foreign political issues, has the following comments:

In fact, the spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry is obviusly attempting to conceal the Chinese leading clique's unwillingness to make a constructive response to the Soviet Union's steadfast and firm will to normalize Soviet-Chinese relations. To put it in a nutshell, the essence of the statement issued by the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman is a rejection by the Chinese leading clique of attacks on China contained in Comrade Brezhnev's Tashkent speech. What does the spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry mean by attacks? Does he mean the following passage in Comrade Brezhnev's speech?

Despite the fact that we have openly criticized and continue to criticize many aspects of the policy, especially foreign policy, Chinese leadership's as being at variance with socialist principles and standards, we have never tried to interfere in the internal life of the People's Republic of China. We did not deny and do not deny now the existence of a socialist social system in China, although Beijing's joining with the policy of imperialists in the world arena contradicts, of course, the interests of socialism.

Does this passage contain any attacks? This passage states a fact known to everyone. Dear listeners, let us take a look at certain other facts.

As early as the early 1970's, the Chinese leading clique began to join U.S. imperialists in supporting Pakistani reactionaries' attempt to drawn the 75-million-strong Bangladesh people's liberation movement in a pool of blood. The New York TIMES had mockingly pointed out: China, attempting to be the leader of the liberation movement, has joined the United States in opposing the Bangladesh people's uprising. If the event were not so serious it would be ridiculous. Does such a Beijing position conform to socialist principles and standards? Does this show the Chinese leading clique's alliance with imperialists and reactionaries?

Several years later, the Chinese leading clique again completely disregarded the minimum requirement of socialist principles and standards. This time it allied with the South African racists when they launched an armed invasion of the newborn People's Republic of Angola at the instruction of the United States. China supplied arms and gave economic and political assistance to the armed invaders. Chinese general-grade military advisers and a large number of Chinese military instructors were active among the racist invaders and imperialist mercenaries.

Let us cite another example. The people throughout the world resolutely oppose the U.S. military presence in various parts of the world. They justly regard the U.S. military presence as a direct threat to the liberation movements and revolutionary movements waged by the Asian, African and Latin American people, and as a threat to world peace. It is very apparent that all socialist countries support the people of various countries in the world, but Beijing leaders support the United States. They even say that the U.S. military presence in various parts of the world is a prerequisite to peace and stability and is a defense for the people of various countries against the fabricated Soviet threat.

In the United Nations the Chinese representative always stands against the majority and follows the U.S. representative in casting negative votes on various principled proposals designed to improve international situation, safeguard peace and stop the arms race. This is no secret to anyone. There are many other examples that the Beijing upper-strata leading clique wants to please U.S. imperialism rather than adhere to socialist principles and standards. In the world China has surely won the reputation for being a tool for implementing U.S. imperialist policies. This is not accidental.

Dear listeners, all you have heard proves that the Beijing authorities clearly deviate from socialist principles and standards, and that Beijing is allied with imperialism. This of course does not conform to the interest of socialism.

Regrettable Response

OW270801 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 26 Mar 82

[(He Ming) commentary]

[Text] In his speech in Tashkent on 24 March, the Soviet leader, Comrade Brezhnev, dealt with the question of Soviet-Chinese relations. It is understandable that this speech has attracted the attention of international observers. The nature of relations between the two big countries usually draws the attention not only of our friends, but of socialism's enemies as well. At a press conference held in Beijing on 26 March, a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry said that the Chinese authorities had also noted Soviet leader Comrade Brezhnev's remarks on Soviet-Chinese relations.

It is regrettable that viewed from the Chinese spokesman's comments, the Beijing upper-echelon leadership was too hasty in making a negative appraisal of the Soviet side's constructive attitude toward a series of outstanding issues in Soviet-Chinese relations. The Chinese spokesman alleged that Comrade Brezhnev's remarks contained attacks on China. This does not conform with facts. In fact, Comrade Brezhnev said: Despite the fact that we have openly criticized and continue to criticize many aspects of the Chinese leadership policy, especially foreign policy, as being at variance with socialist principles and standards, we have never tried to interfere in the internal life of the People's Republic of China. We did not deny and do not now deny the existence of a socialist social system in China, although Beijing's collusion with the policy of imperialists in the world arena contradicts the interests of socialism.

Listeners, let us think it over seriously. What attacks on China are contained in the Soviet leader's remarks and appraisal? We would like to ask: Does what China did during Mao Zedong's time and is doing now conform to socialist principles and standards? Does the foreign policy of Beijing's leaders, in close collusion with the policy of imperialists in the world arena, serve the interests of China's socialist cause? The facts in these regards are indisputable. Absolutely affirming these facts does not constitute attacks by the Soviet Union on China. The Chinese side's allegation at least shows that some people in Beijing deliberately attempt to make Sino-Soviet relations complicated and to ingratiate themselves with imperialists by making such an allegation. They seem to say: Imperialist gentlemen, please look how uncompromising China is to the Soviet Union's new attitude expressing the willingness to take concrete steps to improve Soviet-Chinese relations. This uncompromising attitude based on a distortion of the Soviet stand is harmful to achieving mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and China and is beneficial to the class enemies of world socialism.

It should be pointed out that the spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry said at the press conference: Beijing attaches importance to the actual deeds of the Soviet Union in Soviet-Chinese relations and international affairs. Regrettably, there is no indication that this is what China is really doing.

Comrade Brezhnev said: The Soviet Union is willing to come to terms, without any preconditions, on measures acceptable to both sides to improve Soviet-Chinese relations. This refers to economic, scientific and cultural, as well as political relations, as the two sides become ready for these or other concrete steps in any of these spheres.

Listeners, it can be seen from this that any aggreements that might be reached between the Soviet Union and China would immediately become a political practice in improving relations between the two countries. Of course, this calls for China's leaders to express their willingness to take concrete measures as the Soviet side has done.

Life requires the Soviet Union and China to achieve mutual understanding, which has a bearing not only on strengthening mutual trust in the area of the Soviet-Chinese border to create an atmosphere of neighborliness, but also on economic, scientific and cultural exchanges and some issues in the political sphere. This will be beneficial to the people of both the Soviet Union and China.

USSR Seeks Normal Relations

OW270137 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to China 1100 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Glebov commentary: "The Soviet Union Unswervingly Follows the Guideline for the Normalization of Soviet-Chinese Relations"]

[Text] Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, declared a speech in Tashkent on 24 March reaffirming the line unflinchingly followed by the Soviet Union in seeking the normalization of relations between the Soviet Union and China. He said: There has not been and there is no threat to the People's Republic of China from the Soviet Union. We have not had and do not have any territorial claims on the PRC, and we are ready at any time to continue talks on existing border questions for the purpose of reaching mutually acceptable decisions. In this connection, our station observer writes as follows:

Comrade Brezhnev's speech once again proves that the Soviet Union is willing to normalize Soviet-Chinese relations and has made a series of proposals on this. The 23rd CPSU Congress in 1966 and the 24th, 25th and 26th CPSU Congresses after that always unservingly followed the line aimed at reaching an agreement between the Soviet Union and China to improve relations between the two countries and establish contacts at all levels, including the highest level.

A meeting was held in 1969 between Soviet and Chinese government leaders. The two sides discussed a number of issues and the possibility of holding high-level talks. However, China has failed to respond to the official Soviet proposal on such talks. While resisting the slanderous activities about the so-called threat from the Soviet Union, the Soviet Union put forward clearcut proposals to sign a pact on nonuse of force and a nonaggression treaty. These proposals were made in 1970, 1971 and 1973. In 1978 the Soviet Union once again put forward a new proposal. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet issued an appeal to the Chinese NPC Standing Committee, urging the latter to regard the joint statement on the principles governing mutual relations between the Soviet Union and China and of peaceful coexistence as the foundation for relations between the two nations. However, all these proposals were either rejected or shelved by China.

The Soviet Union has unswervingly and resolutely sought to normalize Soviet-Chinese relations. It has not proceeded from any selfish interest, nor does it plan to seek private gain. Our nation has made such proposals because we believe that the normalization of relations between the two large socialist nations -- the Soviet Union and China -- not only conforms to the fundamental interests of our two nations and peoples, but also tallies with the interests of international socialism and the world's revolutionary movement for national liberation.

People have tried their best to raise a hue and cry about the Soviet threat to China. Whenever the imperialists detect the slightest possibility of an improvement in Soviet-Chinese relations, they have invariably launched activities in a hysterical manner to slander the Soviet Union about the threat from the Soviet Union. All such activities are understandable. Here we would like to quote a remark by U.S. commentator (Franco) about imperialists being wild with joy over the deterioration of relations between the Soviet Union and China. He said: On many occasions we should thank Mao Zedong. First of all we should thank him for shattering the huge rock of Soviet-Chinese friendship.

Currently the imperialists are trying their best to prevent the Soviet Union and China from maintaining closer ties and to keep the rumor about the threat from the Soviet Union, which they have made use of in their mass media, vigorously alive. The imperialists have spread such rumors about the threat from the Soviet Union to help the United States infiltrate China militarily and continue to control Taiwan and China. What can China gain from all this?

As for the relations between our two nations and peoples, the Soviet people firmly believe that there is no objective reason at all for disharmony. Still less should there be reasons for the Soviet Union and China to run in opposite directions. Many years ago our two nations and peoples laid a sound foundation for friendship and cooperation. However, all signs have shown that the Chinese leadership has different views. They have no plans to abandon their guideline in opposing the Soviet Union and carrying favor with the imperialists. The official statement by the spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Soviet-Chinese relations constitutes clear proof.

Mulatov Commentary

OW270159 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1230 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Listeners, you have already heard in this station's broadcast that the Soviet Union has firmly adhered to the principle of restoring good neighborliness and cooperation with the People's Republic of China. In his speech in Tashkent on 24 March, Soviet leader Brezhnev stated: We have never considered normal the state of hostility and estrangement between our countries. Now please listen to a commentary by our station observer Mulatov. The commentary is entitled "Strive To Restore Good Neighborliness and Cooperation."

On the part of the Soviet Union there is no obstacle at all to the promotion of overall cooperation with the People's Republic of China. Dear Chinese listeners, those of you who listened to this station's broadcast on Comrade Brezhnev's speech delivered in Tashkent on 24 March will have no doubt about this point. Is there any factor in Soviet policies which will to any extent infringe upon the sovereignty of the People's Republic of China, upon the national interests of the Chinese people, or prevent China from developing along the socialist road? There is no such factor. There has not been and there is now no factor in Soviet policies running counter to the economic interests of the laboring people in China or to the sovereignty and international prestige of China. Those of you who have a good understanding of Comrade Brezhnev's remarks on Soviet-Chinese relations can convincingly bear testimony to this point.

As Comrade Brezhnev reiterated in his speech, there is no threat to China from the Soviet Union. It was a myth fabricated by the imperialists, and some people made use of the myth during the Cultural Revolution in your country. This myth has already been refuted by life itself and by the political facts of the past and present.

We would like to stress once again that these political viewpoints indicate not only that there is no threat to China's interests from the Soviet Union, but also that the Soviet leaders are prepared to continue talks on existing boundary issues at any time in order to work out solutions acceptable to both sides. It has also been indicated that the Soviet Union is ready to discuss the question of possible measures to strengthen mutual trust in the area of the Soviet-Chinese border. The political reality also indicates that the Soviet Union is prepared to promote economic, scientific, cultural and political relations with the People's Republic of China on the basis of mutual respect for each other's interests, noninterference in each other's internal affairs and mutual benefit.

Naturally it is not a simple question of promoting overall normal relations between the Soviet Union and China. Not only the Chinese people, but also the Soviet people are clearly aware of sabotage by those who are hostile to Soviet-Chinese friendly relations and cooperation.

It is none other than the imperialists themselves who want to further instigate hostility and estrangement between our countries. The imperialists do not want to see China succeeding in its modernization or reaching the world's advanced levels in economy, science and culture. The imperialists would like to spread their ideals in China and continue to interfere in China's internal affairs.

The class enemies of socialism are hostile to the idea that our two great countries could once again take the road of good-neighborliness, friendly relations and comradely cooperation. The imperialist camp is clearly aware that the faster China improves relations with the Soviet Union, the stronger China's stand in the whole world will become.

Shalygin Comment

OW270925 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1000 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, recently delivered an important speech in Tashkent, the USSR. In his speech he discussed Soviet-Chinese relations in detail. Our station observer Shalygin has the following comments:

I believe that the Soviet leader's views on Soviet-Chinese relations will draw the close attention of many of our listeners, particularly those who are truly concerned about the present status of Soviet-Chinese relations. I am anxiously awaiting letters from our Southeast Asian listeners who will surely express their views on Comrade Brezhnev's speech.

Listeners, you probably want to know what the most significant points in the Soviet leader's spech are.

1. Comrade Brezhnev emphasized: Although the Soviet Union criticizes many aspects of the Beijing leaders' policies, we have never attempted to interfere with the PRC's internal affairs. This is completely a matter of course for a country which hopes to have peaceful and friendly relations with all of its neighboring countries.

2. The Soviet Union has never supported in any form the so-called concept of two Chinas. This is where the fundamental difference between the Soviet position and the U.S. position lies. As everyone knows, the United States has thus far not abandoned its attempt to seize Taiwan from China because it will be very convenient for the United States to direct guns from Taiwan at China, the Soviet Union and other Asian countries in the event something happens.

3. Comrade Brezhnev emphasized: The Soviet Union has never threatened the People's Republic of China. It is a fact that we do not have any territorial claims on the PRC despite what biased individuals say. We are ready, at any moment, to hold talks on border issues in order to seek mutually acceptable solutions. We are also ready to discuss the question of possible measures to strengthen mutual trust in the Soviet-Chinese border area.

Soviet sincerity is obvious because the Soviet Union has not set any preconditions for the improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations. The irrefutable evidence shows that the Soviet proposal is not at all propaganda with ulterior motives. The concrete proposal made by the Soviet side is designed to normalize relations between the two countries — in other words, to restore past goodneighborly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

We have made the proposal on holding meetings of Soviet and Chinese representatives to draft a joint statement on the principles of mutual relations and the proposal on the signing of treaties of nonaggression and nonuse of arms of any kind. The Soviet Union has repeatedly proposed the restoration and expansion of economic ties for mutual benefit and the development of cultural contacts. We have also taken the initiative to propose the ending of polemics in the printed media. However, it is regrettable that Beijing does not support these Soviet proposals.

In my opinion, the efforts to normalize Soviet-Chinese relations are not something of no concern other countries and the overseas Chinese. The improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations will inevitably promote international detente, including detente in Southeast Asia, and expand international trade and economic relations. This is what many overseas Chinese expect. In a stable situation, local governments and people will assume a better attitude toward overseas Chinese. Regrettably, the Beijing leaders' reaction shows that they have assumed a negative attitude toward the proposal made by Comrade Brezhnev in his speech.

West Fears Good USSR-PRC Ties

OW270019 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0700 GMT 26 Mar 82

[(Kalin) commentary: "Normalization in the Interests of the Socialist Cause"]

[Text] Brezhnev's speech in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, on 24 March has once again proved that the USSR is determined to prevent global nuclear war and halt the arms race, as well as to struggle to carry out the policy of consolidating peace and disarmament in Asia and other continents of the world. In his speech, Brezhnev paid particular attention to Soviet-Chinese relations. He pointed out: We have never considered normal the state of hostility and estrangement between the USSR and China. We are prepared to come to terms without any preliminary conditions on measures acceptable to both sides to improve Soviet-Chinese relations.

Respected and beloved listeners: It seems that the absolute correctness of these words need not be verified. The current relations between our two countries can by no means be regarded as normal, but the fundamental interests of the Soviet and Chinese peoples require us to adopt practical and feasible measures aimed at improving Soviet-Chinese relations -- measures which accord with the aspiration of the people of our two countries.

Our proposals aimed at normalizing Soviet-Chinese relations are known to all. These proposals include, for example, the establishment and development of bilateral ties on the basis that the principles of peaceful coexistence be respected by both sides. These principles include complete equality, mutual respect for national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, noninterference in each other's internal affairs, nonuse of the threat of force, and mutual benefit. As emphasized in Brezhnev's speech in Tashkent, this refers to economic, scientific and cultural, as well as political relations. However, this depends on what concrete steps both sides are ready to take in any of these spheres.

The era in which the Soviet and Chinese peoples were united by their friendly and comradely cooperation is still fresh today in the Soviet people's mind. We helped China resume and develop its economy, safeguarded its security and strangthened its defense, and China reciprocated by supporting our country's foreign policy. That was an era in which our two countries jointly advocated strengthening the bastion of socialism and the national liberation movement and defending and strengthening world peace in the international arena. That was an era in which our two countries joined hands in rebuffing the aggressive schemes of the imperialists and reactionary forces. This is why the U.S. imperialists and imperialists of all descriptions have always been afraid of normalization and the improvement of Soviet-Chinese relations. They know such normalization means a real consolidation of the bastion of peace and socialism — including socialism in China.

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR of the United States, for example, has said in a panic-stricken manner that it is apparent the West would benefit from Soviet-Chinese hostility. The West has also admitted that it would feel uneasy even if such hostility were only reduced in severity. "The Eagle of Glory," a book published in the United States, formally states that relaxation of tension between the USSR and China will enable them to transfer part of the funds alloted for military needs to the important purpose of developing the economy.

Yes the imperialist countries have never concealed their fear over possible normalization of relations between our two countries.

However, the Soviet people are imbued with enthusiasm and optimism. They know that the imperialists' schemes to intensify the arms race and to split socialism and the national liberation movement will never be realized, and that final victory will belong to those who work for the interest of peace and socialism, and to the Chinese people who want to see that their country is a prosperous socialist power.

Western Propaganda Campaign

OW280638 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1230 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Dear listeners, recently Western newspapers have been carrying materials on the present state and future development of Soviet-Chinese relations. Most of the papers and periodicals in Western countries hold that normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations is very dangerous. (Linov), Soviet journalist and international affairs expert, gives his view on the reasons the Western countries are launching this propaganda campaign.

The resolutions of the CPSU's 25th and 26th Congresses clearly explained the principled stand of the CPSU and the Soviet state on the question of Soviet-Chinese relations. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, put forward a few additional points in his speech in Tashkent on 24 March this year. He stressed: The Soviet Union has never attempted to interfere in the internal life of the People's Republic of China. The Soviet Union has never threatened and is not threatening the PRC. The Soviet Union has not had and does not have any territorial claims on the PRC. The Soviet Union is ready to discuss the question of possible measures to strengthen mutual trust in the area of the Soviet-Chinese border.

The first reaction from the Beijing leading clique to Comrade Brezhnev's opinions is noteworthy. In his statement, a spokesman of the PRC Foreign Ministry said that the Beijing leading clique refuses to accept the attacks on China. The statement cannot be regarded as an affirmative response. Such a statement is, of course, favorable to the imperialist elements who want to use the difficulties in Soviet-Chinese relations to serve their own interests. It should be known that normalization of Soviet-Chinese relations, which is most desired first of all by the Chinese people, is a terrible nightmare to imperialist thinkers and pragmatists.

Not long ago, U.S. Secretary of State Haig said: As long as differences exist between Moscow and Beijing, the West can hope to make achievements in its regional and global activities. In other words, refusal to improve Soviet-Chinese relations is to the advantage of the reactionary, warlike forces of international imperialism.

The Soviet Union points out emphatically here: The state of hostility and mutual alienation between the Soviet and Chinese people is an abnormal phenomenon. Therefore, it is necessary to seek measures acceptable to both sides to improve Soviet-Chinese relations on the basis of mutual respect for each other's interests, noninterference in each other's internal affairs and mutual benefit. Imperialism and those who do not wish to consolidate world peace and increase the security of the people of all countries, however, are opposed to these kinds of prospects.

U.S. SUPPLYING BIG CONSIGNMENT OF ARMS TO TAIWAN

LD281330 Moscow TASS in English 1223 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Washington, 28 Mar, TASS -- The Reagan administration has decided to supply Taiwan with a big consignment of the latest American weapons. According to a report in the Washington POST, an official announcement on that deal worth 97 million dollars is to be sent to the Congress within the next few days. According to the newspaper, the White House has already notified "key members" of the Congress about it.

Observers believe that this step of the U.S. administration is aimed at consolidating in practice the known American formula of "two Chinas," far from renouncing support for the Taiwan regime but, on the contrary, steadily broadening it.

It must be believed that Beijing views, as before, the American-Taiwan ties as acceptable, the newspaper Baltimore SUN pointed out. This is, at least, believed so in official Washington, and even Beijing itself alludes to it.

PRC GYMNASTS FAIL TO GIVE TOP PERFORMANCE

OW280901 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Southeast Asia 1000 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] The Moscow News Cup international gymnastics tournament is currently being held in Moscow. Some 115 young gymnasts from 24 countries, including Bulgaria, the GDR, Cuba, the DPRK, Romania, Vietnam, the United States, Japan and the Soviet Union are participating in the tournament. Chinese gymnasts are participating in this traditional tournament for the first time.

The men's all-round champion was held on 26 March. (Bogolelov), a 21-year old Soviet gymnast, won the major prize of the Moscow News Cup tournament. (Tumilovichi), a Soviet Belorussian gymnast, placed second. Moscow gymnast (Yevseyev) and DPRK gymnast (Yi Chun-feng) tied for third.

(Ye Shaowei), leader of the Chinese gymnastics delegation, told the station reporter: This was the first time Chinese male gymnasts have participated in such a significant tournament. Because they were too excited, they failed to give their top performance, but we hope to do much better in the international tournament in Riga, capital of the Soviet Latvian Republic.

WEINBERGER VISIT TO JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA EXAMINED

LD281426 Moscow TASS in English 1404 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Tokyo, 28 Mar, TASS -- U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has ended his three-day visit to Japan. The Pentagon chief held talks with chief of Japan's National Defence Agency Soichiro Ito and met with Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki and other Japanese Cabinet members. At the meeting with his partners in the talks he demanded that Japan further increase its military spendings.

The Japanese Government is known to have approved under Washington's pressure the military budget of nearly 2.6 trillion yen for the 1982 fiscal year.

These are the biggest-ever military spendings, by far exceeding that country's defence needs. But even this, as follows from the statement by the Pentagon chief, is not enough to satisfy the appetites of the present Washington strategists, who are trying to draw Japan even deeper into the aggressive plans of the USA in Asia and the Pacific. Apart from an additional considerable increase in military spendings by Japan in the current decade, the United States would like to shift onto the shoulders of its Far Eastern ally a large part of the police functions in a number of areas of the Pacific, which are now performed by the U.S. Seventh Fleet. In so doing the high-ranking emissary of the White House had recourse to the favourite tactics of blackmail and threats.

New York, 28 Mar, TASS — Touching upon the visit to Japan of the U.S. defence secretary, the newspaper New York TIMES points out today that according to a statement by a high-ranking Americanspokesman, Weinberger warned the Japanese leaders that if that country's military potential was not increased substantially speedily, the pressure of the U.S. Congress might result in an even larger number of restrictions on Japanese imports or withdrawal of American troops from that country.

This and other statements by Weinberger in the course of his visit to the Japanese isles is evidence of the fact that the American policy of economic pressure, which Washington is trying to use against the socialist countries is also actively used by it against the allies and partners of the United States. An evidence of it is Weinberger's impudent statement. And the Western governments which unwisely and to the detriment of their own long-term interests yield to the pressure of the United States and agree to limit their trade and economic ties with the Soviet Union, begin to realize sooner or later that these unprincipled concessions only encourage the Reagan administration to further pressure to bear on Japan and the member-countries of the European Economic Community.

As far as the threats of the U.S. defence secretary that American troops will be withdrawn from Japan and it will be thus left without "reliable protection" are concerned, they can be evaluated only as open blackmail. It is generally known that the American Armed Forces were deployed on the Japanese soil (like in a number of West European countries) by no means to defend the Japanese and West Europeans from some mythical "external threat" but in the name of implementing its own military-stragegic plans. It is apt to recall in this connection the recent statement by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who bluntly declared in his FRG television interview that the presence of the American troops in Europe meets the vital interests of the USA.

'Dangerous Decade'

LD281056 Moscow TASS in English 1052 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Tokyo, 28 Mar, TASS -- U.S. Secretary of Defence Caspar Weinberger has completed his visit to Japan. The Pentagon chief held talks with Japan's National Defence Agency, Soichiro Ito [as received], met with Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki and other Japanese Cabinet ministers.

Caspar Weinberger demanded that Japan increase its military spendings in the current decade, which he described as a "dangerous decade." He also advocated the adoption by Japan of police functions in a number of areas of the Pacific, which are presently performed by the Seventh Fleet of the United States.

Commenting on the results of the visit of the Pentagon chief to Tokyo, the local press draws attention to the pliancy of the Zenko Suzuki government, which expressed readiness to make efforts in the military field in conformity with the demands of the United States.

Caspar Weinberger left Tokyo for Seoul, where he is to hold talks with representatives of the Chon Tu-hwan dictatorial regime on a broadening of military cooperation between the USA and South Korea.

Notorious 'Soviet Threat'

LD272320 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2110 GMT 27 Mar 82

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Georgiy Alekseyev]

[Text] Today U.S. Defense Secretary Weinberger begins his visit to South Korea. In the course of 3 days we will hold talks on increasing Washington's military support for the Seoul dictator's regime. On the eve of his visit, the head of the U.S. military establishment visited Tokyo. According to reports from information agencies, he applied extreme pressure on the Japanese Government to get it to exert more energy on defense. Japan is already increasing its military expenditures more quickly than NATO countries. Weinberger even expressed satisfaction with the fact that in fiscal 1982 expenditure increased by more than 7.5 percent in Japan.

However, even this is not enough for Washington. The same old notorious thesis of the growing Soviet threat is submitted as an argument. The United States is demanding that Japan assume more responsibility for military operations beyond the limits of the seas surrounding this country and that it prepare jointly with the United States for crisis situation in the Far East. All this, according to U.S. strategists should be strengthened by a large military potential. In this way, Washington is drawing Tokyo more and more closely into its global strategy.

JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S U.S. VISIT ASSESSED

LD290646 Moscow TASS in English 0625 GMT 20 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 29 Mar, TASS -- Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi has just completed his visit to Washington. Immediately after that U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger left for Tokyo. It is highly unlikely that the coincidence is merely accidental. The Pacific allies have got used to resolving problems of economic cooperation along the lines of military cooperation, Vsevolod Ovchinnikov writes in PRAVDA.

The sore issue in bilateral relations between the United States and Japan is the balance of foreign trade, or rather, its disbalance, the commentator points out. Last year the Japanese export to the United States was 18 billion dollars higher than the import from that country.

As expected, the guest from Tokyo heard in Washington demands to moderate the onslaught of Japanese goods (at present, one out of four cars bought in the U.S.A. has been manufactured in Japan), and on the other hand, to expand the export of American, particularly farming produce to the Japanese.

There is, of course, another way of diminishing the lopsidedness in trade between the Pacific allies: to impose on the Japanese additional purchases of American military equipment. Washington is persistently persuading Tokyo to increase its military budget. There is no doubt that it was with this aim in view that Weinberger left on this trip for Japan, the commentary says.

The Pentagon chief reminded his colleagues that they had assumed the pledge to patrol sea routes within the radius of up to a 1,000 miles off the Japanese shores. This will demand, by the way, purchases of expensive American planes.

Finally, it is noteworthy that Weinberger left for Asia shortly after a session of the NATO nuclear planning group. Besides Japan, he intends to visit South Korea and the Philippines. Observers connect his tour with the plans to use the three countries for the deployment of air and sea-based cruise missiles.

Radio Commentary

OW281205 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1000 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Anatolyev commentary]

[Text] Judging from the results of Foreign Minister Sakurauchi's U.S. visit, Japan apparently has decided to make new concessions. Prior to the visit it was known that Washington would ask Japan to drastically restrain its exports and further expedite its military buildup. The visit demonstrated the Japanese Government's submission to U.S. pressure. This became even more evident when President Reagan met in person with Sakurauchi. Following his talks with President Reagan, Sakurauchi said that Japan would soon be able to announce some measures concerning exports to the United States.

Needless to say, the announcement was inevitable under the circumstances; it totally differed from the position states by Japan earlier at a Tokyo meeting.

All facts considered, this statement of the Japanese foreign minister did not suffice to satisfy the U.S. authorities. MAINICHI SHIMBUN writes that the U.S. Government wants Prime Minister Suzuki to personally issue a special statement clearly indicating his plan to take dramatic measures to solve the trade issue.

Japan has also made new concessions in the military buildup issue. In his talks with Sakurauchi, President Reagan, while expressing his appreciation for the efforts made by the Japanese Government in the military area, reportedly stressed that the United States regards them as insufficient and that Japan can and should do more.

Foreign Minister Sakurauchi, in his address at a reception held by the Japan Society, made clear that in response to the U.S. officials' request, Japan is ready to make efforts to further develop Japan-U.S. cooperation within the framework of the security treaty. In its comment on this address, NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN writes that the foreign minister called for the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. alliance.

After his return from Washington, Sakurauchi told a Cabinet meeting that the U.S. authorities had expressed their hopes for further increases in Japan's military capability. Sakurauchi thereby in fact suggested that he himself shared these hopes.

Specific problems of expanding Japan-U.S. military cooperation and deploying new-generation U.S. nuclear missiles to the Pacific region, incluidng Japan, have became the subject of negotiation for Defense Secretary Weinberger during his visit to Tokyo. Weinberger's tough position on this issue is already known.

It appears unavoidable for Japan to shift toward making concessions that pose a danger to peace and stability, and to take new diplomatic steps toward abandoning its three nonnuclear principles.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA MARKS MONGOLIAN ARMY DAY

PM290827 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian on 18 March under the rubric "Today Is the Mongolian People's Army Day" publishes on page 3 a 900-word article by G. Plotnikov, candidate of historical sciences, headlined "Watching Over Revolutionary Gains." Plotnikov outlines the 61-year history of the Mongolian People's Army, including its cooperation with the Soviet Army at Halhain Gol in 1939 and in the "defeat of the Kwantung Army -- the last battle of World War II" in 1945, and goes on to describe the Mongolian Army today and to convey greetings from Soviet servicemen.

COMMENTARY STRESSES ERSHAD, BREZHNEV SPEECHES

BK261446 Moscow in Bengali to Bangladesh 1500 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, the People's Republic of Bangladesh is observing its national festival, independence day on 26 March. Our commentator (Yuriy Kirichatev) writes in this context:

On this day 11 years ago people of Bangladesh took up arms to struggle for the liberation and independence of their homeland. One of the main reasons for the national liberation movement was West Pakistan's economic hegemony over erstwhile East Pakistan and the political discrimination against its residents by the ruling quarters of Pakistan.

All Bengalees from various walks of life, except a small group of reactionaries, joined the struggle for national liberation. Unprecedented and overwhelming unity was consolidated; it turned out to be the ultimate factor in the success of the struggle for the independence and liberation of Bangladesh.

People in the Soviet Union noted with keen interest the development of events in the Indian Subcontinent. During the entire period of the Bangladesh struggle, the Soviet Union extended extensive political, economic and moral support to it. It clearly reflected the basic Soviet policy of solidarity with people struggling for their liberation. This cardinal principle had always been a basic foundation of Soviet foreign policy and still is. At that time, the Soviet people, in letters and telegrams to the Soviet Government and the Supreme Council, expressed anguish over the attitude and activities of the Pakistani reactionaries. During this struggle, the Soviet people demanded an end to Sino-U.S. intervention.

Later, in 1977, the authors of a book, "Insurmountable Friendship" published in Bangladesh, evaluating the support of the working people of the USSR, stressed the fact that this support provided them unlimited strength and courage.

The Soviet people's solidarity with the people of Bangladesh was also noted during the difficult days of the postwar national economic rehabilitation. Immediately after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and Bangladesh in March 1972, a joint communique was signed which identified the basic principles and perspectives for development of Soviet-Bangladesh cooperation in political, economic, scientific, technical and other fields. The succeeding years proved the effectiveness of this cooperation.

The people of Asia could congratulate any effort by Bangladesh to help establish peace in Asia and the world. The leader of the martial law government of the country, Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad Ershad, in a radio broadcast on 24 March said that Bangladesh favors stabilization of friendship and maintaining normal relations with all countries. He emphasized that we, as before, will continue to struggle against any kind of colonialism, aggression and expansionism.

It is well-known that the Soviet Union supports the legitimate aspirations of people of all Asian countries for peace, cooperation and mutual understanding. Our head of state, Leonid Brezhnev, in his address delivered at the Soviet Uzbekistan capital of Tashkent last Wednesday, referred to this. He mentioned that our policy in Asia is to stabilize peace and firmly counter the attempts of the enemies of peace and to maintain peaceful cooperation with all those who want it.

TASS REPORTAGE ON 12TH INDIAN CP CONGRESS

Resolution Adopted

LD271732 Moscow TASS in English 1445 GMT 27 Mar 82

[By TASS special correspondents A. Nikolayev and S. Spitsin]

[Text] Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), 27 Mar, TASS -- Reports of the credentials and editorial commissions were heard today here at the current 12th Congress of the Communist Party of India (CPI).

The supreme forum of Indian Communists approved the report on the political situation and on the party's activities after the eleventh Congress of the CPI. The report was delivered by Rajeshwara Rao, general secretary of the CPI National Council.

A political resolution adopted by the congress firmly condemns the aggressive policy of U.S. imperialism and the expansionist course of the Beijing leadership, and expressed deep concern over the growing threat to the national security of India. The resolution emphasises that the CPI comes out in favour of the all-round development of India's friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union and other socialist states.

The political resolution put forward a concrete programme of action in defence of the democratic rights and basic interests of masses of the country's people. The party demands that big foreign and local monopolies be nationalised and that effective measures be taken to combat inflation and price rises. The CPI will continue to come out consistently in favour of progressive agrarian reforms, improvement of the position of the rural workers and reduction of unemployment, the resolution says.

Shevardnadze Address

LD281800 Moscow TASS in English 1656 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Varanasi (Uttar-Pradesh), 28 Mar, TASS -- TASS and PRAVDA special correspondents report:

We believe that for our people, for the people of India, the peoples of the whole world there is no other task now more important than the task to uphold peace. The creative activities of mankind, its development along the lines of progress can go on only in conditions of peace, said the head of the CPSU delegation to the 12th Congress of the Communist Party of India, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze. He made a speech here today at a meeting devoted to the completion of the work of the forum of the Indian communists.

The Soviet Union and India are natural allies in the struggle for peace, security of peoples, against the policy of imperialism, neocolonialism and racism, said Eduard Shevardnadze.

The Soviet-Indian relations, the speaker noted, successfully develop in an upward trend, despite differences in social systems, with strict observance of the principle of non-interference into each other's international affairs, with full mutual respect for peculiarities of foreign policy of both states.

"On this basis, as Leonid Brezhnev stressed in his speech in Tashkent a few days ago," Eduard Shevardnadze went on to say, "the sentiments of mutual confidence between our states, between our leaders are strengthening. And in these days this is tremendous, priceless capital. It strengthens to a considerable measure the feeling of security in both sides. It creates a big zone of peace and stability in the Asian continent. It enables the Soviet Union and India to successfully cooperate in the international scene in the effort to preserve and consolidate peace, in the development of peaceful cooperation among nations."

Our friendship withstood the test of time. We are confident that it will continue growing and strengthening. The earnest of that is that it became the people's tradition and meets the fundamental interests of our great peoples.

Prominent leader of the communist movement of India, member of the National Council of the Communist Party of India Rajashawara Rao called upon the Indian communists to intensify the struggle for world peace, in defence of the fundamental rights of the working people, for consolidation of unity of the left and democratic forces of the country.

Representatives of the Communist Parties of Vietnam, Cuba, the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and other fraternal parties also addressed the meeting.

Congress Ends

LD281226 Moscow TASS in English 1125 GMT 28 Mar 82

[By TASS special correspondents Aleksander Nikolayev and Sergey Spitsin]

[Text] Varanasi, 28 Mar, TASS -- The 12th Congress of the Communist Party of India has closed here today. At the closing session the delegates elected 125 members of the National Council of the Communist Party of India, 13 alternate members of the National Council and 11 members of the Central Control Commission. The leading body of the party includes representatives from 20 states and two union territories of India. Among them prominent figures of India's Communist movement -- R. Rao, N.K. Krishnan, I. Gupta, H.K. Vyas and M. Faroqi.

General Secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India Rajeshwara Rao delivered a closing speech at the congress. He said that the highest forum of Indian Communists had been highly successful and demonstrated the growing cohesion of the party.

INDIAN PREMIER GREETS BREZHNEV, TIKHONOV

LD271312 Moscow TASS in English 1211 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] 27 Mar, TASS -- India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has sent to the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR Nikolay Tikhonov a message which runs:

"Flying over the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I send cordial greetings to you and the great Soviet people. India and the Soviet Union established exemplary, many-sided cooperation. Let this cooperation be ever strengthening, making a contribution to the cause of world peace and international mutual understanding.

"With the good wishes of health and well-being to your excellencies and prosperity to the Soviet people".

DRA'S DOST ON BREZHNEV PEACE INITIATIVES

LD281242 Moscow TASS in English 1210 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Kabul, 28 Mar, TASS -- The Afghan people have shown great interest in the Soviet Union's fresh proposals aimed at containing the arms race and lowering the level of military confrontation, which were put forward by general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Leonid Brezhnev. They are another graphic proof of the real concern of the Soviet leadership with strengthening peace and preventing the threat of war, a TASS correspondent was told by Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost.

These proposals, he stressed, have the broadest support among all people of goodwill, all realistically-minded politicians, because they meet with the aspirations of an overwhelming majority of the population of the earth. Only people who are indifferent to the destinies of peace and humanity can pretend that they do not notice the fresh Soviet initiatives.

Being a country adjoining the Indian Ocean, Afghanistan, the minister said, met with special interest Leonid Brezhnev's proposals on limiting the actions of the navies and spreading confidence-building measures to the seas and oceans, especially the areas across which run the busiest sea lanes. The implementation of these proposals will make it possible to create a vast zone of peace. We wholeheartedly support these initiatives, as their implementation would not only eliminate the threat to the independence and sovereignty of the littoral states, but would also contribute to ensuring the security of shipping, Shah Mohammad Dost said in conclusion.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA ON U.S. 'SLANDER' OF DRA

PM261115 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Mar 82 p 3

[G. Musayelyan report: "Spring of Struggle and Hopes"]

[Text] Kabul-Moscow -- Today Afghanistan embarks on the new year of 1361, Nowruz according to the local calendar. It marks the beginning of spring so, according to Muslim custom, the new year has to be greeted in a good mood.

Despite the fact that peace has not yet come once and for all to Afghan soil, the DRA's working people have hopes for that. A PDPA national conference has just ended. It was yet further evidence of the party's increased unity and the heightening of its vanguard role among the broad masses. The appeal to the people adopted by the conference emphasizes that the PDPA has no more important task than to create a happy, independent and flourishing Afghanistan.

Despite the unceasing intrigues of its enemies, the DRA has scored notable successes. These are a clear answer to the question of what specifically the revolution has given to the country's peoples and tribes. Since April 1978 249 industrial projects have been commissioned in Afghanistan and 297,000 peasant families have received land free of charge. Seven mechanized agricultural centers, with a total vehicle pool of over 400, have been created. The wages of low-paid workers and employees have been increased (by between 26 and 50 percent). Some 600 schools have been built and 28,000 courses for the elimination of illiteracy are in operation.

The Soviet Union has made a weighty contribution to these successes. Our country has trained thousands of Afghan technical specialists. And 99 out of every 100 large and small industrial enterprises constructed in the DRA in the last few years were created with USSR participation.

I visited one such project. The first thing you are aware of as you approach it is the smell of freshly baked bread.

"This is one of our country's biggest enterprises," I was told by (Mokhammed Ishkan Khursan), deputy director of a DRA food industry department. "The design was developed at Moscow's Gipropishcheprom-1 Institute and was carried out by the Afghan state construction firm (Akuk) with Soviet specialists taking part and using Soviet equipment and materials."

In total, 2,500 tons of freight was delivered from the USSR for the bakery. It was constructed in less than 18 months. The enterprise's productivity is 72 tons of baked goods and confectionery per day. It is planned to achieve this level by 1 April 1982.

With the help of faithful and reliable friends, new Afghanistan would have been able to overcome many difficulties by now. But imperialist forces, headed by the United States, the Chinese hegemonists, the Pakistani military regime and other foes are continuing to interfere in the crudest way in its internal affairs. They are trying to destabilize the situation in the country and to restore the old setup. The enemies of the April revolution are still training and sending into the DRA bandits who treacherously kill party activists, destroy schools and terrorize the population.

"We routed a mercenary gang a few days ago," (Mukhammed Kabir), chief of the Zonal (Khad) (security organs), whom I met in Qonduz, recounted. "Many bandits were captured and American-, Egyptian- and Chinese-produced weapons and large sums of money and subversive literature were confiscated from them."

I managed to talk to several bandits who had voluntarily laid down their arms or had been taken prisoner by DRA soldiers and with volunteers from the self-defense detachments.

The illiterate peasant (Abdul Khalil) is 27 years old. He was forcibly recruited into one gang when the bandits took one man from each family in his village. (Khalil) was sent to Pakistan, where he spent 7 months in the camps of (Orsok) and (Razakheyl), 60 km from Peshawar. They lived in tents.

They underwent military training under the leadership of Chinese, Pakistani and American instructors. (Khalil's) group was given the mission of infiltrating Parvan Province to terrorize the population and kill everyone who cooperated with the legitimate DRA Government. Having seen with his own eyes what was truth and what was lies, (Khalil) voluntarily surrendered to the authorities.

It is perfectly clear that it is the enemies of the April Revolution who are destabilizing the situation in the DRA and preventing the Afghan people from living and working in tranquillity in their own land. But Western propaganda persistently tries to deny that incontestable fact and to turn everything upside down, as the saying goes.

Fresh impetus has been imparted to the slander campaign today. U.S. President Reagan has declared 21 March to be "Afghanistan Day." The organizers are trying to produce another propaganda show in grand style. Representatives of gangs of basmaks have arrived in the United States to take part in the vile show. Extreme rightwing organizations like the "Coalition for Peace Through Strength," the "Council for the Defense of Freedom," the "John Birch Society" and so forth have been brought in. Provocative hearings in this connection, addressed by U.S. Under Secretary of State W. Stoessel, have been held in the U.S. Senate. Ignoring obvious and generally known facts, the representative of the U.S. administration poured slander on the legitimate DRA Government and on the Soviet Union. Washington is also continuing to heap up lying charges against the servicemen of the limited Soviet contingent that is carrying out, at the request of the legitimate DRA Government, the noble mission of defending the republic from external aggresstion.

A sumptuously produced 52-page color brochure has also been published in this connection. It contains carefully selected and technically irreproachable photographs with an accompanying text. Everything is designed to evoke particular emotions in the reader. "This brochure," France's L'HUMANITE writes, "tries to portray the rebels as heroes; Afghans loyal to the Kabul government as collaborationists; and Soviet people as monsters. These Russians are capable of anything! For instance, the use 'concealed bombs' in the shape of toys or other objects and scatter hundreds of thousands of them around the place. They are intended to kill children. For anyone with even a slight knowledge of the Soviet land, this charge is the height of stupidity and infamy! Not a single document is cited in confirmation...." The campaign over the farfetched Afghan question, the paper concludes, has been incorporated in the Reagan administration's overall strategy in defiance of all reality.

Realism, of all things, is clearly what the organizers of the anti-Afghan show lack! Matters reached the point where a few days ago the U.S. President, during a ballet performance at the Kennedy Arts Center tried to make the leaders of the troupe include in the theater program a provocative postscript to the effect that the show was dedicated to the "people of Afghanistan in their fight for freedom" -- that is, to the U.S.-encouraged Afghan counterrevolution. In response the audience hissed Reagan. When this attempt failed, the best the President could find was to declare that he was dedicating the launch of the space shuttle planned for 27 March "to the Afghan people's struggle" -- in other words, to the same old basmaks. Comment is superfluous, as the saying goes!

However, the operation "big lie" to which Washington is today resorting will not enable the United States or Beijing and the other foes of the Afghan people to duck the responsibility for their crimes.

Afghanistan is continuing its difficult path from medieval times to the modern age, to a happy new life. The process of revolutionary transformations in Afghanistan is irreversible, and sooner or later even those who are now creating tension around the DRA will be forced to realize this. They can be answered in Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's words: "...If there is a real wish to end this problem, it is necessary to end external interference in Afghan affairs and to join in real earnest in efforts with a view to a political settlement of the situation over Afghanistan."

With weapon in hand DRA servicemen and the country's working people, under the leadership of the PDPA, are defending the gains of the April revolution in the dream and belief that a peaceful spring will come to their land.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA PHOTOGRAPH OF TROOPS IN DRA

PM261605 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian on 16 March publishes on page 2 a photograph captioned "On Afghan Soil" showing a group said to be Komsomol activists with bearer of the Order of the Red Star, Guards Snr Lt Gennadiy Vydrin, who are all described as part of the "limited contingent of Soviet troops" in Afghanistan. The caption points out first that the servicemen, who are portrayed in the snow, have coped well with the Afghan winter and second that Komsomol organizations have an important role to play especially in view of the forthcoming 19th Komsomol Congress.

INDIAN JOURNAL ON U.S. CBW RESEARCH IN LAHORE

LD271300 Moscow TASS in English 1227 GMT 27 Mar 82

[From TASS correspondent Aleksandr Bokhonko]

[Text] New Delhi, 27 Mar, TASS -- People passing by the inconspicuous building No. 6 on Birdwood Street in the Pakistani city of Lahore would hardly imagine what takes place behind its walls. Meanwhile, as the Indian weekly BLITZ reports, work to create bacteriological weapons in conducted in this building which houses a "research centre" which professedly engaged in the study of malaria. The centre was set up in 1962 with the assistance of Maryland University. Mosquitoes evolved by the staff of the centre are incitants of the gravest diseases. After several hundreds of Lahore residents fell ill with yellow fever as a result of the mosquito bites, a scandal broke out. It transpired that under CIA aegis the centre specially bred special types of mosquotoes for use against the civilian population of Afghanistan. In the process the residents of Lahore were used as a sort of human guinea-pigs. The director of the centre, D. Nallin, had to hurriedly leave Pakistan. It would seem that the "research institute" would cease to exist. However, this is not the case. The centre continued functioning. The Pakistani authorities hurried to hush up the incident.

Work is being continued at the centre to create new types of bacteriological weapons. Following mosquitoes over types of the incitants of lethal diseases are being prepared. The BLITZ emphasis that the Pakistani authorities' unwillingness to put an end to the dangerous experiments, in spite of demands by the country's public, indicates that the ruling regime in Islamabad is interested in the conduct of the experiments. The weekly recalls that Pakistan has long been used by the United States as the main ground to test various types of deadly weapons, including chemical ones, against Afghanistan. The BLITZ points out that the Government of the DRA has repeatedly exposed the use of chemical weapons against the civilian population of the country by the United States. This time Washington and Islamabad are conducting an active preparation for bacteriological warfare against people's Afghanistan. The weekly writes that the peoples of Asian countries cannot remain indifferent to the United States' fresh ominous plans in the region.

VIETNAM COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS OPENS IN HANOI

Maslennikov, Miniyev Dispatch

LD270602 Moscow TASS in English 0500 GMT 27 Mar 82

[By TASS correspondent Ilya Maslennikov and Aleksandr Miniyev]

[Text] Hanoi, 27 Mar, TASS -- The 5th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam opened here today.

Present at the congress are more than a thousand delegates who represent 1.7 million Vietnamese Communists. The congress is attended by delegations of fraternal parties, people's revolutionary and democratic parties, national liberation movements.

The delegates will discuss the political report of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam to the fifth congress, the guidelines of socio-economic development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for 1981-85, questions of the party construction and additions to the party's rules.

The political report of the Central Committee was made by general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam Le Duan.

Le Duan Report

LD271728 Moscow TASS in English 1600 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Hanoi, 27 Mar, TASS -- Vietnam has reaffirmed its readiness to establish relations of goodneighbourliness with the ASEAN countries and urged them to hold talks on the existing problems. This was stated in a report delivered by Le Duan, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV], at the CPV's Fifth Congress which opened here today.

Vietnam, he said, "is always ready to coordinate efforts together with the ASEAN countries to make South East Asia a region of peace and stability." However, at present relations between Vietnam and the ASEAN states "are encountering obstacles created by Peking and Washington which are trying to derive benefit for themselves."

The Vietnamese leader expressed the hope that the ASEAN countries, proceeding from the basic interests of the region, will go to a dialogue in the name of establishing peace, (?unity), friendship and cooperation.

Describing the situation in the world, Le Duan said that U.S. imperialism, "looking for ways out of the economic impasse and counteracting the world revolutionary movement, is trying to keep its dominance by directing the spearhead of the fight against the USSR and other socialist countries."

In the realisation of its designs, the USA, the speaker went on to say, "has found an ally as represented by the reactionary grouping in the ruling circles of China." "The collusion between the leader of imperialism and China's forces of expansionism and hegemonism is the distinguishing feature of the present day international situation." The leader of the Vietnamese Communists described the U.S. administration's attempts at playing the "Chinese card" as a "serious threat to security and stability in Asia."

Le Duan pointed out that in these complex international conditions the Soviet Union tirelessly works in the name of strengthening peace on earth. The speaker expressed full support for the Soviet Union's new peace proposals aimed at strengthening the security of peoples. Speaking of the foreign-policy tasks for the forthcoming period, Le Duan stated: "Cohesion and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union have been and remain the cornerstone of the foreign policy of our party and the state." "Close cohesion and all-round cooperation with the USSR is our principle, our strategy. At the same time this is also the manifestation of our revolutionary feelings," he stated to a stormy applause by the delegates to the congress.

The report stresses determination to strengthen the ties linking the SRV with Laos and Kampuchea. The friendship among the three countries, Le Duan said, "is vitally important for the destinies of our peoples."

The leader of the Vietnamese Communists stated that the CPV and the Government of Vietnam will actively broaden cooperation with socialist countries, within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, in particular.

Touching upon the events in Poland, the general secretary of the CPV Central Committee condemned the imperialist forces' interference in the internal affairs of the Polish People's Republic and stated support for "the correct and resolute measures of the Martial Council for National Redemption aimed at putting a stop to reaction's attempts to seize power, at establishing order and security with a view to overcoming the socio-economic difficulties in Poland."

The speaker expressed solidarity with the Republic of Cuba and with revolutionary Afghanistan.

The report expresses "full support for the struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America for the elimination of colonialism, for the strengthening of national independence, and for a new economic order." Le Duan gave a high appraisal of the political role of the Non-Aligned Movement, specially noting the contribution by the movement's such prominent participant as India.

The speaker stated Vietnam's readiness to restore normal relations with China. "We have repeatedly offered to resume the talks which China interrupted unilaterally, but the Chinese side invariably renounces our proposals. The Chinese leaders, like before, pursue a policy of expansion and great-power hegemonism," he pointed out.

Le Duan declared for the establishment and widening of normal relations with the countries of the West. "As far as the USA is concerned," he said, "relations do not improve because of Washington's hostile policy."

Much attention in the report was devoted to the analysis of economic problems and national economic tasks for the coming years. The country, Le Duan said, is faced with two main tasks: to successfully build socialism and to be constantly ready to defend the fatherland. "The task is to make Vietnam a socialist state with a modern industrial-and-agrarian economic structure, advanced culture, science and technology, a powerful national defence, and to ensure a happy life for the people," Le Duan stated.

Gorbachev Speech

LD280548 Moscow TASS in English 0535 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Hanoi, 28 Mar, TASS -- The complex of proposals formulated the other day by Leonid Brezhnev at the congress of the Soviet trade unions and in Tashkent is another tangible proof of the fact that the CPSU and the Soviet Government "are firmly following the course of the 26th CPSU Congress and consistently working for the implementation of the peace program for the 1980s adopted by the congress," Mikhail Gorbachev, member of the Politbureau and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, said today at the 5th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Mikhail Gorbachev, who leads the CPSU delegation to the congress, stressed that the socialist countries "spare no effort to improve the international climate." The current aggravation of the international situation is being caused by the policy of imperialism, primarily American imperialism, he said.

"The ideologists of American reaction are again calling for the spread of U.S. domination to the whole world," the leader of the CPSU delegation stated. "Western Europe is being saddled by its 'defenders from the other side of the ocean' with hundreds of additional nuclear missiles, and is being told unashamedly about the possibility of the so-called limited nuclear war on the continent. In the Middle East the United States is encouraging the predatory policy of Israel and hampering the elimination of the consequences of the Israeli aggression and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

"It is only thanks to the support of imperialism that the stronghold of racism, the Republic of South Africa, continues to exist in southern Africa and that Angola, Mozambique and other African countries are being attacked by the racists. In Central America and the Caribbean the U.S. administration threatens Cuba, is hatching a conspiracy against Nicaragua and helping the bloody Salvadoran junta to strangle the freedom-loving people of that country."

Mikhail Gorbachev pointed out the danger of Washington's attempts to play the "Chinese card" and its striving "to exploit to the utmost in its global strategy the anti-Sovietism and hegemonism of the Chinese leader." He also drew attention to the fact that the United States, having forgotten the lessons of the Second World War, "is assuming a course of encouraging Japan's militarism in the hope of turning that country into a tool of expansionistic policy in Asia."

Despite these indubitable facts, the leader of the CPSU delegation continued, the imperialist circles are hyprocritically trying to make the peoples believe that the aggravation of the international situation is the fault of socialism. The speaker recalled that when Pol Pot, the Maoists' disciple, had killed his compatriots by hundreds of thousands before the eyes of the whole world, the imperialist "human rights champions" were keeping silent. Now, when Kampuchea has risen to its feet with the help of the Vietnamese people and is building a life of peace, "they organized the adoption of all sorts of slanderous resolutions while preparing an intervention with the participation of traitors to the Kampuchean people, including the self-same Pol Pot."

Fanning up the non-existent "Kampuchean problem," Peking and Washington are seeking "to create a permanent seat of tension in South-East Asia and to incite a conflict between two groups of countries in the region, the Indochina and ASEAN. This is shameful policy!" Mikhail Gorbachev stated.

The leader of the delegation said that "solidarity of the three Indochinese countries is an influential factor of peace and stability in Southeast Asia." He stated the Soviet Union's full-scale support for the Vietnamese position on the settlement of the situation in South-East Asia and for the new proposals made on this score by Le Duan in his speech at the congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

"We stand for stamping out seats of conflicts and settling disputes through negotiations. It is good that this policy of the socialist countries on the Asian Continent evokes a sympathetic response in the influential circles of many Asian states," the leader of the CPSU delegation said, and added that the Soviet Union "highly appreciates the progressive foreign policy course of India and other peace-loving Asian countries."

The speaker spoke highly of the state of Soviet-Vietnamese relations. He conveyed to the congress the assurances of the Soviet leadership that the USSR "was, is and will remain together with Socialist Vietnam in the struggle for advancing the economy, raising the living standards of the population and multiplying the gains of socialism."

Praise for Vietnam Party

LD281654 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1100 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Gorbachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and head of the CPSU delegation, has spoken at the Fifth Vietnam Communist Party Congress. He conveyed cordial wishes for the complete success of the work of the congress from Leonid Ilich Brezhnev. This congress of your party, Comrade Gorbachev said, is an event of significance not only for Vietnamese Communists. Your experience, your achievements and your problems, and of course the way you have dealt with them, are of great interest to the fraternal parties. The creative work of every Marxist-Leninist party, the head of the Soviet delegation stressed, makes the entire communist movement spiritually richer.

Brezhnev Message

LD280938 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Gorbachev, Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and head of the Soviet delegation to the Fifth Vietnam Communist Party Congress, has conveyed to the delegates cordial wishes for the complete success of the congress from Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium. Comrade Gorbachev stressed that Soviet-Vietnamese relations are built on the most durable and honest principles known to history, on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism. Their solid foundation is the treaty of friendship and cooperation signed in 1978, while the bond cementing these relations is the fraternal, indestructible friendship of our communist parties.

Second Day's Proceedings

LD280946 Moscow TASS in English 0910 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Hanoi, 28 Mar, TASS -- The Fifth Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam has been in session for the second day here. The delegates are discussing vital problems pertaining to further efforts in socialist construction in the SRV.

Member of the Politbureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, Chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong addressed the forum with a report "The Guidelines, Objectives and Aims of Economic and Social Development for the Five-Year Period (1981-1985) and the Period of the Eighties." "The main aims set to the economy," the reporter said, "must be specifically embodied in every branch of the national economy, every locality and at each mill and factory. We must form a rational agrarian-industrial structure to combine the development of agriculture, the light and the heavy industries."

The head of the SRV Government spoke in detail on the tasks pertaining to the resolution of the food problem. By the end of the five-year plan period the country must produce 17 million tons of food in rice count.

The energy programme provides for the attainment in 1985 of electricity output of 6,000 million kilowatt hours and of coal output -- up to nine millions tons. The reporter specially stressed the need to center efforts on prospecting jointly with the USSR for oil and gas deposits on the continental shelf in the south of Vietnam.

A report on party construction was presented by member of the Politburo, secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam Le Duc Tho. The report generalizes the experience of organizing party work after its fourth congress.

Gorbachev-Truong Chinh Talks

LD261448 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1300 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Talks were held in Hanoi today between a delegation of the Vietnam Communist Party [VCP] headed by Truong Chinh, Politburo member of the VCP Central Committee and State Council chairman, and a CPSU delegation headed by Comrade Gorbachev, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The delegation came to Hanoi to take part in the VCP congress which opens tomorrow.

The VCP leaders highly assessed the important initiatives put forward by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev aimed at developing the process of detente and curbing the arms race. The meeting passed in an atmosphere of cordiality and fraternal solidarity.

Friendship Meeting

LD291234 Moscow TASS in English 1222 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Hanoi, 29 Mar, TASS -- "The Soviet Union and Vietnam hold a unanimous opinion on all principal questions of the international policy.

"The foreign policy course of our countries is a course of peace and peaceful cooperation," Mikhail Gorvachev, member of the Political Bureau, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, declared at a meeting of Vietnamese-Soviet friendship held today at the construction site of the hydroengineering complex of Hoa Binh.

Gorbachev, who is heading a CPSU delegation to the 5th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, said that "the forces of imperialism and international reaction are seeking to aggravate the situation in the world, and are escalating the arms race, the threat of a thermonuclear war is hanging over mankind."

"The Soviet and Vietnamese peoples know well the value of peaceful work, for they paid a heavy price for the right to it. Our countries are applying maximum effort to uphold the greatest right of peoples -- the right to life."

"Leonid Brezhnev in his speech at the 17th Congress of the Soviet Trade Unions advanced new proposals directed at curbing the arms race and preventing a threat of a new world war. We are glad that these initiatives have received Vietnam's full support and evoked broad positive response from all people of good will," Gorvachev said.

He pointed out that Vietnam "acts now as a reliable outpost of socialism and peace in Southeast Asia. Together with Laos and Kampuchea, your country, despite the machinations of imperialists and hegemonists, is consistently striving for the transformation of Southeast Asia into a zone of peace and stability.

Socialist Vietnam makes weighty contribution to the struggle for security for the whole of Asia.

The head of the CPSU delegation expressed confidence that the decisions of the 5th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam will "become a programme of active struggle of the Vietnamese people for establishing a material and technical base of socialism, increasing people's well-being and strengthening their country's defence capability."

CIA'S 'PHOENIX' PROGRAM IN VIETNAM TERMED GENOCIDE

LD262142 Moscow TASS in English 2110 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar, TASS -- During the United States aggression in Indochina the U.S. military launched in Vietnam a broad programme of secret operations envisaging terroristic actions, sabotage and elimination of political opposition in South Vietnam, it is said in the book International Terrorism and the CIA that was brought out by the "Progress" publishers. In the section about the United States' secret war in Southeast Asia, the book's authors Boris Svetov and Oleg Tarin stress that the Pentagon's actions in the region can be justifiably qualified as genocide.

The CIA's programme "Phoenix" was called upon to "pacify" all the patriotic forces that were waging the struggle against the U.S. military. The author of this criminal programme was William Colby who later became director of the Central Intelligence Agency of the USA. The South Vietnamese police forces, information services, as well as South Vietnamese and U.S. units participated in the operations envisaged by the programme.

In his statements to the Senate committee on intelligence in 1971 Colby admitted that over 20,000 "suspect persons" were killed as a result of the implementation of the "Phoenix" programme. In reality the death toll resulting from the U.S. policy of genocide in the region was many times greater. Napalm, white phosphorus, fragmentation bombs, flame throwers and others weapons with which the U.S. Army was armed were used against civilian population.

Units of the U.S. military intelligence took an active part in the "Phoenix " operation. But the leading role was played by the CIA. It is known, for instance, that Colby himself set monthly quotas for the destruction of civilian population and they had to be met.

Brutal torture and mass murder are only one outward aspect of the CIA's criminal activity in Vietnam. There are many proofs that the Central Intelligence Agency originated the U.S. Vietnam venture by creating on purpose the situation which prompted the U.S. congressmen's decision on armed intervention in Vietnam.

U.S. ATTEMPTING TO DRAW ASEAN INTO MILITARY ORBIT

LD261515 Moscow TASS in English 1435 GMT 26 Mar 82

[By TASS Observer Sergey Bulantsev]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar, TASS -- A group of high-ranking military representatives of Thailand with Dith Sabanchoong, chief of staff of the Supreme Command, at the head, are attending as observers the "Team Spirit-82" military exercises, now being held by South Korea and the United States. Their trip is a kind of prelude to joint military exercises to be held by Thailand jointly with its allies, including the USA and the ASEAN countries, this year. Thus, a new step is being made in the development of military ties between the United States and the ASEAN countries, Thailand in the first place.

Washington's attempts to draw the ASEAN countries (Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore) within its military orbit began soon after the disintegration of the SEATO bloc in 1977. These attempts grew more persistent after the Reagan administration came to power in the United States. The number of Pentagon and State Department visitors to ASEAN countries has trebled. Their purpose is to make ASEAN a military grouping in order, firstly, to pit it against the socialist countries of Indochina and, secondly, to make it easier for the USA to build up its military presence in Southeast Asia.

These attempts have so far produced little or no effect. The Pentagon's sounding of possibilities for making the ASEAN a military bloc met with a negative attitude on the part of many leaders of the SEATO countries whose formally proclaimed aim is to make Southeast Asia a zone of peace, tranquility and neutrality. Now Washington is making a round-about manoeuvre in an effort to draw the ASEAN countries -- if not all of them at once then one by one -- into its bloc strategy. This is now the direction of military-diplomatic sounding in Washington and the capitals of Southeast Asia.

Thus, at the recent Washington meeting of representatives of the USA and ASEAN the White House put emphasis again on the military aspect. Under Secretary of State Walter Stoessel reaffirmed Washington's intention to increase its arms shipments to ASEAN. Meantime the volume of direct American shipments to ASEAN countries makes, already now, a huge figure which in 1977-1980 amounted to 2.48 billion dollars. These arms shipments are to be increased 25 percent in the nearest future. As a result the military spending of the ASEAN countries now consumes an average of over 20 percent of their national budgets.

Washington concentrated its efforts on Thailand where the Pentagon wants to secure the right to use air and naval bases. American arms and advisers are being sent to Thailand under the pretext of defending it from "the Vietnamese menace." The United States also seeks to strengthen its military ties with the Philippines to which it promises 155.1 million dollars in military and economic aid in exchange for permission for the Pentagon to have the Subic Bay Naval Base fully at its disposal. Efforts are also being made to build bridges from Washington to Singapore in view of the latter's unique strategic position on the way from the Pacific to the Indian Ocean.

In imposing military functions on the ASEAN the United States wants to fill the "strategic vacuum" in which the Pentagon found itself after SEATO's downfall. The Pentagon's cherished dream is to turn ASEAN into an aggressive military bloc. But there is growing resistance in Southeast Asia to these dangerous plans. The peoples do not want to be pawns in Washington's risky game.

LAOS PROTESTS PRC MILITARY 'PROVOCATION'

LD261736 Moscow TASS in English 1838 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Vientiane, 26 Mar, TASS -- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has strongly protested against the gross act of provocation perpetrated by the Chinese military against Laos.

The note of protest points out that on March 18-20 a Chinese Army unit attacked Lao border guards in the Phongsali Province and invaded Lao territory. One Lao border guard was wounded as a result of this armed act of provocation.

The document stresses that Beijing's new dangerous action is a gross violation of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Laos. The Foreign Ministry of the republic demanded that China immediately stop hostile activities against Laos and stated that the Chinese side bore the entire responsibility for the consequences of these acts of provocation.

OBSERVER WRITES ON BURMA'S ARMED FORCES DAY

BK280346 Moscow in Burmese to Burma 1030 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Armed Forces Day in Burma is observed on 27 March. Moscow radio observer (Sergey Viktorov) has written as follows on this special day of the Burmese people:

On this auspicious occasion, the Soviet people honor Burma's national armed forces, which resisted and repulsed the Japanese aggressors through their patriotic struggles with the support of the whole people. This resistance, which was led by Burma's independence movement leader General Aung San, played a decisive role in obtaining Burma's independence. After the Soviet Union declared war against Japan, the Japanese occupation forces ceased their resistance almost everywhere. Even during the Burmese people's struggle for independence, Burma's Armed Forces, which had always maintained close contact with the working people, manifested their role in serving the people's interests. Although such historic events remain in the past, their significance has not diminished.

The military and political outcome of this resistance, which concluded on 27 March 1945, is very important. The flag of the antifascist People's Freedom League founded by Gen Aung San and his comrades, which had a white star against the red background, once stood for the solidarity and unity of the national patriotic forces in their struggle for independence, democracy and progress. After the war ended, the general and the patriotic forces led by him had to spend all their energy opposing and resisting the (?English) authorities who tried to reestablish the colonialist system in Burma. The anti-imperialists spirit and tradition of national unity, which emerged during the war, eventually led the Burmese people toward independence.

Independence and social justice -- which were the goals of the struggle of the resistance movement comrades -- were once again reflected in life when the Revolutionary Council took power in 1962. The patriotic leaders of the revolution, who were faithful to Gen Aung San's thoughts, announced a wide-ranging program for socio-economic and political reforms in the country. The implementation of this program has ended the exploitation of foreign capitalist-monopolists and enabled the nationalization of capital and enterprises owned by foreign and local capitalists. Agrarian reform was carried out to dismantle the landlord system and feudalism and to distribute farm lands to the peasants who did not own land or who had very small land holdings. The state sector of the economy was established and gradually developed.

Reorganization of Burmese society on the basis of socialist principles, elimination of exploitation of man by man and social justice were declared as the goals of the revolution. These goals were reaffirmed at the Fourth Congress of the Burma Socialist Program Party [BSPP] held last August. Reforms which have been carried out in Burma since 1962 suit the basic interests of workers and peasants who constitute the majority of the working people. They have become politically and socially active and aware, and their voice can be heard clearly and loudly in the BSPP, the People's Assembly and councils at different levels throughout the country.

The implementation of the third 4-year economic plan has almost been completed. The Soviet people are quite satisfied to know that the plan is being implemented successfully. Paddy production is approaching the 15 million-ton mark, which is double the amount produced in 1962. Achievements in the field of education and health are also very encouraging.

However, there are problems that have not been solved. It is of special note that external debts are growing due to an increasing amount of loans taken from the capitalist countries. Political and public circles inside Burma are saying that efforts must be made to solve these problems according to the policy of strengthening the socialist goal and the economy and the political independence of the country.

The Soviet people also know that destructive work by anti-people insurgents and the Beijing leaders' support and encouragement for them are causing difficulties in Burma. According to a recent remark in the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, Beijing's policy remains a major obstacle in the elimination of insurgency and the establishment of peace in Burma. When the Burmese Government steps up operations against the insurgents, China immediately increases arms supply to them. The magazine points out that the deeds of the Beijing leaders differ from their words, although they seem to be saying that they have cut off contact with insurgent groups in Southeast Asia and that their support was only psychological.

Because of this existing threat from their hegemonistic northern neighbor, the Burmese people have to be cautious and vigilant. Under these conditions, the call made by Defense Minister Gen Kyaw Htin during his 36th Armed Forces Day speech was very appropriate. He called on the members of the armed forces to constantly upgrade their combat ability and training and to strengthen their ties with the people.

On this auspicious occasion, the Soviet people honor and greet the people of Burma and members of Burma's Armed Forces. The observer writes that the Soviet people extend their wishes and greetings for new successes in reorganizing the Burmese society on the basis of socialist principles.

BRIEFS

SOVIET-SAMOAN RESEARCH -- Here is information IZVESTIYA has received from the Soviet ship Kallisto. The newspaper reports that scientists from the USSR and the young Republic of Western Samoa are carrying out joint research in the Pacific aboard this ship. The vessel is currently in position over the deep Tonga Trench, which is a very interesting and promising place from the scientific point of view. The first investigations have produced unexpected results. Several new underwater mountains have been discovered. One of them has been named Friendship Mountain in honor of the cooperation between the specialists of the two countries. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 26 Mar 82 LD]

U.S. SAID TO FINANCE POLISH COUNTERREVOLUTION

LD270744 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0635 GMT 27 Mar 82

["The United States Financed Counterrevolution in Poland" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Mar (TASS) -- The United States and its Western allies financed the activity of Polish counterrevolution, says the brochure "Who Pushed Poland to the Precipice?" which has been published here.

It stresses that after the election of Ronald Reagan as U.S. President this activity not only increased but took on a completely new character. Washington has openly declared its support for the forces of counterrevolution and has tried to put pressure on the Polish Government. On 26 March last year the U.S. Senate supported the statement by the President that the United States was ready to give aid to Poland on the condition that its government did not hinder the activity of "internal opposition."

The U.S. National Security Council adopted a special decision on financing Polish counterrevolution. The chairman of the AFL-CIO, L. Kirkland, suggested using the trade unions in order to somewhow mask the interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. With this aim they organized a collection of donations for "the starving Poles."

In all, 400 centers were set up in various countries in the West through which the Polish counterrevolution was supplied with printing equipment, radio and television stations, arms and explosives. The West supported 440 Solidarity bosses, paying for their services in hard currency.

"Private" channels were also used to finance the Polish counterrevolution. So a banker from Cleveland, (Van Stefanski), provided $500,000 for the purchase of arms, which, with the help of the (Staier) firm, were secretly transhipped to Poland via Austria in the guise of "food supplies."

The CIA founded several centers for training counterrevolutionaries. Many leaders of Solidarity were trained at the center at the Paris magazine KULTURA, including Modezlewski, Onyszkiewicz, Geremek and Michnik. With funds from the West storm detachments were formed in Poland to seize power and wreak violence on communists. The United States and its Western allies handed over millions of dollars to the Polish counterrevolutionaries. They were trying for the liquidation of the socialist system in Poland and, on a even wider scale, the weakening of the world socialist system and a review of the borders that developed in Poland after World War II. The introduction of martial law, the brochure stresses, wrecked these plans.

'MYTHS' OF SPONTANEOUS POLISH STRIKERS VIEWED

LD262220 Moscow in Polish to Poland 1700 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] One of the myths widely propagated by Solidarity's mass media suggested that its leaders found themselves spontaneously involved in the wave of 1980 strikes. It was maintained that the strikes were not previously prepared but were an expression of dissatisfaction by the working class against the style and methods of work of the former party and state leadership. The legend of Walesa was launched with particular vigor: Allegedly learning of the strike, he climbed over the fence of the Lenin Shipyard in Gdansk and joined the protesters. Such a fairy tale was to constitute the proof that the strike was quite spontaneous and even Walesa did not know when it was to start beforehand.

Of course, this fairy tale was to impress the most naive people who were not privy to the secret. In fact, as it has now finally become clear, the workers' dissatisfaction was used by political adventurers in order to organize a legal platform for the struggle for power. Such anticommunist leaders as Kuron, Michnik and Modzelewski had long harbored the idea of creating the notorious free trade unions.

Later they did all they could to use NSZZ [Independent, Self-Governing Trade Unions] Solidarity for the overthrow of people's power when directing Solidarity.

Kuron and company reared cunning pupils and imitators. Among them was the fairly well-known Gwiazca, who later became a member of Solidarity's National Committee Presidium. Gwiazda started his active antisocialist activities in November 1976 when he and his wife sent a letter to the Polish Sejm expressing support for the activities of the Social Self-Defense Committee [KSS-KOR] leaders. Gwiazda also demanded freedom of action in helping the so-called victims of the 1976 Radom events.

On 29 April 1978 Gwiazda signed the notorious founding declaration of the Free Trade Unions Active in Gdansk. That declaration with the help of suitable persons was passed on to the subversive Radio Free Europe and broadcast on 4 May 1978.

Still before the beginning of the events of August 1980, Gwiazda and his wife Duda Gwiazda disseminated illegal publications and leaflets of the KSS-KOR -- mainly the bulletins ROBOTNIK and ROBOTNIK WYBRZEZA. In addition, Gwiazda mimeographed subversive leaflets.

Another so-called main activist of Solidarity in Gdansk was Kolodziej, deputy chairman of the Solidarity interfactory founding committee in Gdansk. He worked at the Gdansk shipyard from March 1979 until March 1980. It was at that period that he made contacts with the leading proponents of the above-mentioned free trade unions. Under the influence of the Gwiazdas, Kolodziej fully absorbed the subversive ideology of the KSS-KOR: The hostile attitude toward the authorities and the socialist state. At first he was entrusted with purely technical matters, the dissemination of ROBOTNIK, for instance. But soon afterwards Kolodziej became an active organizer of various meetings and conferences of KSS-KOR people in Gdansk, Gdynia and Sopot. He also constantly maintained close contacts with Kuron, the spiritual leader of the KSS-KOR, and eagerly fulfilled his instructions. This eagerness finally led Kolodziej to crime: He went illegally to Czechoslovakia, where he was arrested by the Czechoslovak state security organs.

Here is another pen portrait of a spontaneous counterrevolutionary: Waszkiewicz, scientific worker of Wroclaw Technical University and member of the Solidarity National Committee Presidium. He started his subversive political activity in 1970. He disseminated illegal publications among scientific workers. He tried in every way to make contact with representatives of ideological subversion in capitalist countries. In 1975 he was the originator of a letter addressed to the PZPR Central Committee in which the party and state authorities were accussed in an exceptionally insolent manner of impeding contacts with scientists abroad.

After 2 years the untamed humanist counterrevolutionary Waszkiewicz organized a collection of signatures for a provocative petition to the Polish Sejm in defense of the arrested leaders of the KSS-KOR, who at that time had compromised themselves to the utmost as rabid enemies of the people's state system.

During the period of unbridled strike terrorism unleashed on the orders of the KSS-KOR instructors, Waszkiewicz published in the illegal Wroclaw BIULSTYN DOLNOSLASKI, marked by extreme anti-Sovietism and burning hatred of socialist Poland.

The list of such examples can be continued: Other names can be named of the so-called true defenders of the interests of working people, trained beforehand in KSS-KOR circles, such names for instance as Bujak, Rulewski, Moczarewicz, Litynski, Onyszkiewicz and their like. Their activities convincingly debunk the fairy tales of the passive, almost observer-like role of the KSS-KOR activists in the notorious events of 1980-81.

CZYREK REPORT ON POLISH FOREIGN POLICY CITED

LD261800 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1325 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Warsaw, 26 Mar (TASS) -- J. Zyrek, member of the PZPR Politburo and foreign minister of the Polish Peoples' Republic [PPR], delivered a government report to the Sejm session on topical problems of the PPR's foreign policy.

According to PAP, he said in part: The introduction of martial law saved internal peace in Poland. The decision that was made created no threat to any state. It did not change the principles of Polish foreign policy. We have more than once explained the motives and aims of this difficult but essential step.

The international tension being whipped up concerning events in Poland does not arise from the nature of the sovereign decisions we took concerning the internal affairs of Poland. It arises from the nature of present American policy, from NATO's desire to alter the correlation of forces and political reality in Europe. Our country has become the object of an unprecendented campaign, of political propaganda aggression, of economic "sanctions," of attempts to isolate it politically and to limit bilateral contacts.

The cornerstone of Polish foreign policy has been, is and will remain the ties of alliance, friendship and all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union, which grew out of the joint struggle of revolutionaries and was cemented by the blood jointly shed in the struggle against Hitler's Germany. This alliance is the main guarantee of Poland's security, of the inviolability of our borders, and an important factor in the cohesion and cooperation of the whole community of socialist states. It is also an important factor in the peaceful formation of relations in Europe.

The recent friendly visit to Moscow by the Polish Party and state delegation was an event of particular significance for Polish-Soviet relations and on a broader international scale.

The Moscow talks and their results again confirmed the historic strategic significance of the Polish-Soviet alliance, which is that the existence of a strong, independent socialist Poland is in the interests of the Soviet Union just as the strength and international prestige of the USSR are in the interests of the people of Poland. They showed that Poland has faithful friends on whom it can rely.

The agreement on economic matters is of unusual importance. It is directed toward establishing close long-term links between our economies, based on the principles of specialization and coordination. This will be an important factor enabling the crisis to be more rapidly overcome and our economy to be gradually stabilized, preserving the normal rhythm of production at hundreds of enterprises.

The Soviet leadership and the inhabitants of Moscow received our delegation with great cordiality, friendship and respect for the Polish people, the Polish working class and its party. The fraternal support expressed for Poland is best shown by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's words: "We have been doing all we can to help Socialist Poland and will continue to help." The course and results of the visit opened up a new stage in the development of Polish-Soviet relations. The main aspects were: understanding and support for the path we have chosen, on the part of our Soviet friends; confirmation that cooperation with economic assistance from the USSR, and the system of cooperation of the socialist states within the CEMA framework, constitute the main factor in our economic security; resolute confirmation that the international agreements and treaties that resulted from World War II set the present territorial and political pattern of our continent from the unshakable foundation of security, stability and peace in Europe; and consolidation of Poland's international position as a close ally of the USSR, a firm link in the states of the socialist community, an active participant in the policy of peace in Europe and throughout the world.

In the face of the threat inherent in return to "cold war" tendencies in the policy of the United States and NATO, the strengthening of defensive capability and cooperation in alliance within the framework of the Warsaw Treaty is particularly important.

Europe and peace face serious dangers. One of the greatest deteriorations of relations between East and West since the war has taken place. The main source of this is NATO's policy of confrontation pursued in the spirit of the "cold war," particularly the negative development of American policy. NATO imperialist and militarist circles are clearly trying to change the correlation of forces, destroy the existing balance and conduct a position-of-strength policy.

The main factor in the defense of peace and international security is the strength and cohesion of the states of the socialist community, their constructive, responsible and far-sighted policy.

Fresh evidence of the USSR's constructive policy in this matter is the initiatives proposed by L.I. Brezhnev at the Congress of the Soviet Trade Unions. We welcome them as an expression of good will and a sincere desire to reach agreement. We wholeheartedly support them.

We welcome with gratitude the USSR's readiness to resume the Soviet-American talks on the limitation and reduction of strategic nuclear weapons immediately. This is in the interests of all the peoples of the world.

We are ready to continue to develop bilateral relations with the capitalist states. We are grateful to those states that have retained a sense of proportion and moderation with regard to the campaign organized against Poland and that have not joined in the attempts to dictate to us how we should order affairs in our own country. We greatly appreciate the understanding, good will and humane assistance given us in a difficult period by the public in the Western states.

The PPR foreign minister said the present U.S. course as regards Poland, linking the development of relations to political conditions does harm to Polish-American cooperation. It is unacceptable for any sovereign self-respecting state and is an expression of the opportunist approach of a great power to our country.

The Sejm adopted a resolution reaffirming the correctness and firmness of the principles of Polish foreign policy. This resolution expresses the will of the Polish people to live in an independent, sovereign socialist state, within secure borders and in peace, friendship and cooperation with those who are willing to do so on the basis of the principles of mutual benefit.

The Sejm highly assessed the results of the recent visit by a Polish party and state delegation to the Soviet Union. The results of the talks held and the guidelines adopted at them are an important contribution to the efforts to overcome our difficulties.

The Sejm approved the aims and tasks of Polish foreign policy as set out by the foreign minister.

The Sejm considers it necessary to oppose attempts to practice economic and political discrimination against Poland and to limit its influence on the development of the situation in Europe; to step up Poland's activity for the benefit of detente and peace in Europe; and to support the Soviet proposals and decisions in the sphere of disarmament.

In performing the above-mentioned tasks the PPR Government relies on the support of all Poles who are guided by a sense of responsibility for the fate of their homeland and of peace in Europe, the resolution says.

POLISH OFFICIAL CITES ASSISTANCE FROM CEMA

LD261930 Moscow TASS in English 1859 GMT 26 Mar 82

["Poland Relies on Assistance From Friends" -- TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar, TASS -- Wladyslaw Gwazda, deputy foreign trade minister of Poland, has said that cooperation with the Soviet Union and other countries grouped in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) has a great role to play in helping Poland overcome the difficult situation that has arisen in its economy. The deputy minister, currently staying in Moscow, told a TASS correspondent that greater links in the CMEA framework were especially essential now that the United States and other capitalist countries were applying economic sanctions against socialist Poland. He said the USSR's and other CMEA countries' extensive and all-round assistance helped neutralize the sanctions' effects and made it easier for Poland to overcome the crisis.

Wladyslaw Gwazda stressed that the Soviet Union was giving Poland substantial economic assistance. Stable Soviet deliveries of fuel, raw materials, machines and other products, manufactured under integrated production schemes, as well as other commodities were vitally important to Poland's economy. The deputy foreign trade minister also said that, following a request from Poland, many types of raw and other materials and manufactures were being supplied ahead of schedule.

"On top of this, the USSR, mindful of the difficulties in providing the Polish industry with raw materials, is supplying us with a certain amount of goods over and above the earlier specified levels," Wladyslaw Gwazda continued.

During the recent visit to the Soviet Union of a Polish party-and-state delegation led by Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish deputy foreign trade minister said, economic agreements had been reached on appreciable expansion and enhancement of cooperation between the two countries. They were directed, in particular, towards a better use of the Polish industry's production capacities. Plans provided for increasing, with the USSR's participation, the processing of different types of raw materials at Polish enterprises. Wladyslaw Gwazda cited Polish-Soviet cooperation in the textile industry as a good example of the joint work of that kind.

That would ensure employment for tens of thousands of Polish workers. In addition, Poland would be able to use part of the output to meet its own requirements.

Specialists of fraternal countries were working to broaden the scope of specialization and integrated production in the manufacture of electronic telephone exchanges, materials and components for electronic devices and ship equipment, and in the automotive industry. That cooperation was all the more significant as it was impossible to get cooperation products from Western countries.

Assistance in the building of a number of major projects, which were not completed because of the lack of financial resources and in whose products other fraternal countries were interested, was another form of cooperation within the CMEA framework. A number of the council countries had already expressed their readiness to take part in that work.

The fraternal countries had met Poland halfway also in the sphere of credit and finances. Taking into account the difficult situation in Poland's national economy, the Soviet Government had agreed to grant it a long-term credit, which would make it possible to repay the difference in the value of mutual goods deliveries in 1981 and 1982. "Also, the credit is being granted on easy terms, which we would never get from Western banks," Wladyslaw Gwazda added. He said changes favourable to Poland had also been introduced in the structure of its trade with other CMEA member-states.

DOCUMENT ON COAL MINING SIGNED WITH POLAND

LD261824 Moscow TASS in English 1731 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar, TASS -- The Polish coal mining industry is operating in a normal working rhythm and is about to reach a level of output that will set a record in its history, the TASS correspondent was told by Poland's Minister of Mining and Power General Czeslaw Piotrowski. He is heading a delegation which is holding talks in Moscow with a number of Soviet ministries.

Today an aide-memoire was signed at the USSR Ministry of Coal Mining Industry, concerning questions of reciprocal supplies of coal-mining equipment, its co-production, as well as a further development of the economic and scientific and technological cooperation between the Soviet Union and Poland.

SUPREME SOVIET DECORATES POLISH AMBASSADOR

LD261820 Moscow TASS in English 1746 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar TASS -- Poland's Ambassador to the Soviet Union Kazimierz Olszewski has been presented with the Order of Friendship of the Peoples.

He is decorated with the order "for his active work to strengthen the friendship and to develop all-round cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Polish People's Republic," says the decision of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

TASS REPORTS ON JARUZELSKI ARRIVAL IN GDR

LD291020 Moscow TASS in English 1007 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Berlin, 29 Mar, TASS -- A Polish party and government delegation led by the first secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland, Wojciech Jaruzelski, arrived in Berlin today for an official friendly visit at the invitation of the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, chairman of the Council of State of the GDR, Erich Honecker.

At Schoenefeld Airport the Polish delegation was greeted by Erich Honecker, and other party and state leaders of the GDR.

HOFFMANN SPEECH TO GDR PEOPLES CHAMBER REPORTED

LD281612 Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Berlin, 28 Mar, TASS -- NATO's policy of arms race and the decision taken by that bloc to deploy new American nuclear weapons in West European countries constitute the main threat to peace and detente in Europe, said General of the Army Heinz Hoffmann, member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, GDR National defence minister.

Addressing the session of the People's Chamber, he stressed that the most aggressive NATO circles, above all of the USA, use all sorts of lies to camouflage their military preparations. Now this aim is served by their attempts at belittling in every way possible the significance of the fresh peaceable steps taken by the Soviet Union and countering the constructive proposals of the Warsaw Treaty member-states, which are directed at continuing detente and at disarmament.

STUDY NOTES USSR MOVES AGAINST PIPELINE DELAY

NC281541 Paris AFP in English 1532 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Malmo, southern Sweden, 28 Mar (AFP) -- The Soviet Union will have to step up imports of gas pipelines from Western Europe and Japan to honour its European Siberian natural gas contracts, according to a Swedish report to be published here tomorrow.

The report, issued by the private Swedish organisation Petrostudies, said that U.S. anti-Soviet economic sanctions could lead to a delay or even a cancellation of Siberian natural gas shipments to Western Europe.

The Soviet Union, it said, aimed to counter U.S. sanctions by stepping up construction of the 4,400 km (2,750 mile) pipeline from the western Siberian gas deposits to the Soviet-Czechoslovak border.

Quoting Soviet Oil Ministry sources, Petrostudies said that Moscow had recently decided to change its initial plans for the pipeline and would now lay three parallel pipes, each 142 cms in diameter (some 60 inches) and measure a total length of 10,000 kms (6,250 miles).

The Soviet Union aimed to finish building the pipeline well before the scheduled date of 1985, the report said.

EEC TO AIR DIFFERENCES WITH U.S. OVER USSR TRADE

LD280058 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1945 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] The heads of states and governments of the 10 EEC countries are to hold a 2-day meeting in Brussels which will open on Monday. The big topics on the agenda are the economic situation of the world and East-West relations. At the microphone is our commentator Viktor Levin:

Both questions on the agenda have a clearly defined interdependence. This one can judge from the publications of the West European press. It is precisely from this point of view that the heads of the 10 intend to exchange views.

It is a fact that the economic situation of the Common Market countries is so alarming that the heads of state and governments in effect have renounced the holding of any sumptuous festivities on the occasion of the EEC's 25th anniversary. Things will be limited to a small ceremony and it will be no excuse for rejoicing. The very fact that the Common Market countries have over 11 million unemployed people clearly shows the depth of these critical phenomena. In addition, one has to add the continuing fall in production, the heating up of the war of competition with the United States and Japan and the growth of internal contradictions within the community. The picture is therefore a depressing one.

It is in conditions such as these that the development of economic ties with the socialist states and primarily with the Soviet Union assumes special significance. In a recent interview with DPA, Amerongen, president of the West German Trade Association, stressed that the FRG economy cannot develop without exports. Criticizing the policy of limiting trade with the USSR which the United States is foisting on people, Amerongen noted with reason that the United States as well as the Soviet Union are quite capable of surviving in their home markets. It is the other states who will suffer from these limitations. In other words, this prominent West German industrialist let it be understood unequivocally that the policy of cowboy attacks [as heard] on international trade and normal economic ties is hitting hard at the interests of the FRG and other West European countries. This view is also shared in Bonn.

AFP reports that well-informed circles in the West German capital have let it be understood that Chancellor Schmidt intends to pursue the line at the conference in Brussels that a trade war against the Soviet Union must not be launched in Europe. Since other Common Market countries also hold analogous viewpoints, one may conclude that the Brussels conference will not cause Washington to rejoice.

The difference in U.S. and West European views on relations with the socialist states is becoming ever more noticeable. While in a number of political, primarily military-political questions, the United States is still managing to impose its will on its partners, this is not the case when it comes to the sphere of economic relations. In this particular field, Washington is having to back down.

FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY 'AMBIGUITY' SCORED

LD280030 Moscow in French to Europe 1830 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Commentary by TASS commentator Boris Tumanov, entitled: "France -- Worrying Ambiguity"]

[Text] The Petit Robert dictionary gives some definitions for the word "equivocal" that can be interpreted in various ways. Let us analyze briefly the French position on current international problems.

France decided to sell arms to Nicaragua, and what could be more logical? It is to help that country defend itself in the event that the latent threat of U.S. intervention becomes a reality, and yet, now the official French explanation is that the only objective of the sale was to prevent Nicaragua from buying arms from Cuba or the USSR. This is an explanation which does not satisfy Washington. President Reagan chides the so-called French providers of freedom in Central America, while Paris then indefinitely postpones the fulfilment of the Nicaraguan order. Such are good principles.

Now, the reaction of France after the establishment of the state of emergency in Poland: This is an internal affair, one which is of concern only to the Poles. After the known development of this position, the French Government encouraged a group of French citizens to launch 10,000 balloons containing subversive instructions which landed on Polish soil. Now the French president goes on an official visit to Israel, which has just annexed the Golan Heights and which continues to usurp the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The declared aim of the visit was to contribute toward seeking an equitable peace in the Near East. The result is that France reaffirmed its support for Camp David and let Begin understand that France would be willing to sell arms to Israel.

France expresses some doubts as to the appropriateness of economic sanctions in international relations, yet at the same time signs the Brussels resolution obliging the NATO countries to adopt economic sanctions against Poland and the USSR. After having signed the gas deal with the Soviet Union, France is actively participating in the work of COCOM [NATO Coordinating Committee] where preparations are underway to make it harder for the West to sell goods to the socialist countries. The French leaders never let pass the occasion to talk in favor of East-West dialogue, but what is the worth of such appeals when the French authorities cancel the French-Soviet parliamentary meeting on disarmament which should have been held in Paris at the end of January?

France abandoned since the time of Giscard d'Estaing's vague and undecided stance [passage indistinct] and yet what does France reply? "But, gentlemen, you must not even think about it; this strike force is our own; we will not tell you. What will we do with it? You can be sure of at least one thing: It is not the NATO Command that will order the launching of French missiles toward you. We receive orders only from a French general." This is little consolation, dear listeners, especially in the present international context when Western Europe is content with the role of being a loyal and almost anonymous spectator in the show set up by the American President with the theme "How To Die in Europe for the United States." The formula adopted by the French president with regard to the problem of disarmament in Europe is: Arm first, then talk. This has given a free hand to the American administration which has taken this opportunity to introduce into Europe the Pershing and cruise missiles, the neutron bomb and then chemical weapons -- that is to say, those war means which are especially designed for use only on the European Continent.

The French leaders try to justify their calm as they watch the transformation of our continent into a kind of advanced bastion of the United States by argments that are diametrically opposed. At one moment it is a matter of discipline and Atlantic solidarity, at another of France not belonging to the NATO military organization. All this is fine material for oratorial jousting, but it would not do much for stopping radiation or a cloud of toxic gases.

The present crisis in international relations must not serve as a pretext to speed up the arms race. No mere propaganda slogan, this is vital for the future of the world. Not to admit this is to shut oneself off from the responsibilities which fall inexorably on all governments, above all on the governments of Europe. In the face of the ambiguity of the French Government's position on this problem that is so vitally important for our continent, I cannot help thinking that the synonym for the word equivocal is "element for worry." This is also in the Petit Robert.

MARCHAIS VIEWS PCF CANTONAL ELECTION LOSSES

LD271716 Moscow TASS in English 1651 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Paris, 27 Mar, TASS -- Georges Marchais, general secretary of the French Communist Party (FCP), who made a final report at a plenary meeting of the FCP Central Committee held here, summed up the results of the party's activities after the 24th FCP Congress and outlined tasks for the future.

He pointed out the importance of the current period in the country's political life because of the victory of the left-wing forces and the formation of a government with the participation of Communist ministers. The FCP general secretary said that in the past nine months the government had fulfilled the first part of the tasks facing it. Some results have been achieved. However, the work that has been done revealed certain narrowness in the government's activities. All this affected the results of the recent cantonal elections, in the course of which the right-wing forces improved their positions.

Georges Marchais stressed that insufficient mobilization of electors voting for the left-wing forces is one of the causes of this situation. On the contrary, the right-wing opposition parties took advantage of the difficulties faced by the government to rally their forces. There is no doubt that in the future, too, they will miss no chance to boost their activities, aimed at creating obstacles on the way towards transformations by using demagogic propaganda for this purpose. "In these conditions," Georges Marchais went on to say, "the Communist Party's line should strictly correspond to the decisions adopted by the 24th CP Congress. The congress put forward the radical transformation of society as the principal task. This is necessary for solving the problems which France has faced and will continue to face irrespective of our will."

Georges Marchais stressed that this transformation of society should be carried out in a democratic way. The building of socialism should become nothing but the result of a broad popular movement.

The FCP general secretary pointed out that the Communist Party has all the real possibilities to solve the tasks facing it. The results of the 1981-1982 elections confirmed that over five million electors cast their votes for Communist candidates.

GROMYKO EXPLAINS BREZHNEV PROPOSALS TO FRG ENVOY

LD261834 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1740 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar, TASS -- Andrey Gromyko, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of foreign affairs, received Andreas Meyer-Landrut, FRG ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Their conversation concerned topical questions of the contemporary international situation. Particular attention was given to the task of dealing with the threat of nuclear missile war, curbing the arms race and strengthening security in Europe.

Andrey Gromyko explained to the ambassador the essence of the new Soviet initiatives put forward by Leonid Brezhnev in his speech at the 17th AUCCTU Congress, first of all those among them which concern the problem of reducing nuclear armaments in Europe. It was emphasized that the decision of the Soviet leadership to introduce a unilateral moratorium on the deployment of medium-range nuclear armaments in the European part of the USSR and the intention of the Soviet Union this year to reduce its medium-range missiles by a certain number are intended to facilitate the achievement of a just agreement on a major reduction of nuclear weapons by both sides in Europe.

These new Soviet initiatives constitute yet further words of reason and of our love of peace, and we hope that they will be heard in the FRG, Andrey Gromyko stated. The government of the FRG, as is known, has repeatedly spoken in favor of mutually acceptable accords being found most speedily at the talks in Geneva with regard to the broad interests of European and international security. The Soviet side expects that it will be from this angle that the aforementioned initiatives will be examined in Bonn.

Andreas Meyer-Landrut, having confirmed the FRG's interest in a positive outcome for the Soviet-American talks in Geneva, stated that everything that has been said by the USSR foreign minister concerning the new Soviet initiatives and proposals would be conveyed to the FRG Government.

FRG CHEMICAL DELEGATION TOURS UZBEK SSR SITES

GF271600 Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] The representatives of the (Basch) company in the FRG, who are on a visit to the Uzbek SSR, acquainted themselves with historic sites of architectural importance in Bukhara on 27 March. They also visited new housing sites still under construction. The representatives from the FRG, who are headed by the chairman of this new chemical enterprise [name indistinct], are visiting the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Soviet Ministry of Chemical Industry.

BELGIAN CP REGARDS DOMESTIC, FOREIGN ISSUES

LD271722 Moscow TASS in English 1240 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Brussels, 27 Mar, TASS -- Problems of struggle against anti-labour policy of the government and monopolies, for the interests of the broad working class masses, for consolidation of security in Europe and the whole world are in the centre of attention of the delegates of the 24th Congress of the Communist Party of Belgium, which is under way here.

A report of the party's Central Committee was delivered by Chairman of the Communist Party of Belgium Louis van Geyt. The report pointed to the deepening of crisis phenomena and aggravation of class struggles in Belgium. The crisis manifests itself particularly acutely in our country, he said. The chairman of the Communist Party of Belgium strongly criticized the course of the Belgian Government which is conducting an offensive on the rights and interests of the working people. He set forth the Communist Party's policy in the working class movement, gave an appraisal to actions of other parties of the opposition.

Comrade Louis van Geyt said that the stepping up of the struggle for peace, against the arms race, was of particularly great significance in the present-day deteriorated international situation. This struggle assumed broad proportions in Europe, involving most different strata of the population.

The reporter denounced the militaristic policy conducted by American imperialism, declared for removal of nuclear weapons from Europe, against realization of plans of deploying American cruise missiles in Belgium. He recalled the new peace proposals of the USSR, which were put forward at the trade union congress in Moscow by Comrade Leonid Brezhnev, and criticized the negative reaction of the Reagan administration to these proposals.

The chairman of the Communist Party of Belgium said that the Belgian Communists demand that the government of the country should heed the Soviet proposals and avail itself of the opportunity to deliver Europe and the world from a nuclear threat. He emphasized that Washington's so-called "zero option" leaves aside the problem of American forward-based nuclear means, submarines and planes, armed with atomic weapons which are already deployed in Europe, and also medium-range nuclear forces of Britain and France. He stressed the need of working for mutual reduction of armaments to the lowest level possible, implying in the future the perspective of simultaneous dissolution of the blocs confronting each other.

The party's stand on a number of other international problems was set forth in the report of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belgium. The report paid much attention to questions of struggle for social transformations in Belgium. He said that one more congress of the Communist Party of Belgium was planned to be held this autumn. The congress will be devoted to elaboration of the party's new structure and other organizational matters.

The discussion of the Central Committee's report began at the congress today.

U.S. SHUTS CONSULATE IN THE HAGUE AFTER PROTESTS

LD262156 Moscow TASS in English 2132 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] The Hague, 26 Mar, TASS -- The U.S. Embassy announced a closure of the American Consulate in The Hague. The decision followed in the wake of massive demonstrations before the buildings of the diplomatic missions of the United States in the Netherlands protesting against the U.S. administration's support for the bloody regime in El Salvador.

Thousands of people took part in the demonstrations in different cities of the country after it had become clear that the junta's soldiers had brutally murdered four Dutch newsmen. The demonstrators accused the United States of complicity in the murders.

CULTURAL-SCIENTIFIC PACT SIGNED WITH GREECE

LD261840 Moscow TASS in English 1636 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar, TASS -- USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Zemskov and Director of the Department of Cultural Relations of the Foreign Ministry of Greece Alexis Zakiphinos signed a programme of cultural and scientific cooperation between the USSR and Greece for 1982-83.

"This programme reflects very good relations that have been established between our countries," Zakiphinos said. "It comprises all aspects of contacts in the sphere of science and culture between the Soviet and Greek peoples and will, undoubtedly, promote mutual enrichment of social and cultural life in both countries."

"It is only truly friendly relations that create the necessary conditions for useful cooperation, the atmosphere of confidence and mutual understanding." Zakiphinos said in conclusion. "It is precisely in these conditions that our talks were held."

SYRIAN BA'TH PARTY'S AL-AHMAR INTERVIEWED

PM261451 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Mar 82 p 4

[PRAVDA correspondent R. Moseyev and TASS correspondent A. Zhudro report on interview with 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy secretary general of the Syrian Ba'th Party: "In the Vanguard of the Struggle" -- date not given]

[Text] Damascus, March -- Syria is currently in the front line of the Arab peoples' struggle for freedom and independence and against imperialist diktat and Israeli aggression. PRAVDA correspondent R. Moseyev and TASS correspondent A. Zhudro asked one of the Syrian leaders, 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, deputy secretary general of the Ba'th Party, to tell them about the current situation in the region and about Syria's position on a just settlement of the Near East conflict.

The reasons for the exacerbation of the situation in our region are obvious, 'A. al-Ahmar said. Nurturing plans to establish military-political domination here, the United States is deliberately fueling tension, encouraging the Israeli ruling circles' expansionist policies and inciting them to engage in dangerous adventures. To this end Washington and Tel Aviv have signed an agreement on so-called "strategic cooperation" with consequences extending beyond the Near East region.

With American support Israel is trying to extend its borders at the expense of Arab lands. In summer 1980 Israel illegally proclaimed occupied Jerusalem as its "eternal indivisible" capital and at the end of last year it annexed the Golan Heights, which belong to Syria. The Reagan administration supports Israel's territorial ambitions. It vetoed the Security Council resolution condemning Israeli expansionism and voted with other Western states at the UN General Assembly special session on adopting measures aimed at restraining the aggressor, who had gone too far.

Under American protection, the Zionists are now carrying out plans to annex the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip. There is a real danger that the Israeli military will invade southern Lebanon.

In this complex and explosive situation, 'A. al-Ahmar noted, Syria is opposed to Israel's intrigues and to U.S. anti-Arab policy. Its consistent, principled attitude on questions relating to a Near East settlement and its active role within the National Steadfastness and Confrontation Front evoke unconcealed malice in Western imperialist circles, which are stepping up subversive activities against our country. Washington, resorting to crude interference in internal affairs, is essentially inciting local reaction to engage in antigovernment actions. The recent events in the city of Hamah where the authorities destroyed strong points and arms stores belonging to the terrorist Muslim Brotherhood organization, are directly linked with the pressure campaign on Syria and with attempts to weaken it and force it to make concessions in Near East affairs.

So far as Soviet-Syrian relations are concerned, 'A. al-Ahmar said in conclusion, their further development is one of the main avenues of Syrian foreign policy.

LEBANESE DELEGATION MEETS USSR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

NC261332 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Within the framework of Lebanese contacts with big powers, the Lebanese delegation now visiting the Soviet Union has met with Polyakov, second deputy to Chairman Leonid Brezhnev, in the presence of a number of Soviet officials. The discussion dealt with the dangers under which the Lebanese are living and the ability of the Soviet Union to fortify Lebanon against these dangers by discussing the Middle East issue.

The Lebanese delegation consists of Minister Marwan Hamadah, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies' Foreign Affairs Committee, Amin al-Hafiz, and Deputies Mikhayil az-Zahir, Fu'ad at-Tahini, Michel Ma'luli, Albert Mansur, Hashim al-Husayni and Karim Muruwwan.

During the meeting between the Soviet second deputy chairman and the Lebanese delegation, the discussion focused on the potential for Israeli aggression, the undermining of internal Lebanese stability, continued Israeli occupation of land in the south and the connection between these and the developments of the Middle East issue after the annexation of the Golan and what Israel is doing now in the West Bank.

The Soviet second deputy chairman reiterated his country's support for Lebanon's unity, independence and sovereignty and its legal authority, declaring that Lebanon can rely on the friendship of the Soviet Union. He declared that the Soviet Union had already made a proposal aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem through the resumption of peaceful efforts. He pointed out that conditions in the Middle East are the result of the Camp David accords and the attempt to achieve partial solutions that do not serve the right of peoples in the area to peace. This, he pointed out, contributed to the disturbances in Lebanon and the area.

COMMENTARY ON PRC'S GESTURE TOWARD IRAN

GF290912 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] The Lebanese paper ASH-SHA'B, citing Western diplomatic sources, reported a few days ago that PRC leaders are trying to establish friendly relations with Iran and that Iran and the PRC are growing closer. On this occasion we ask you to pay attention to our commentator Mikhail Aleksandrov:

Everyone knows the PRC supported the shah's regime to its last days, even when street fighting was going on in Iran. Hua Guofeng's warm meeting with the shah of Iran took place just a few days prior to black Friday, 8 September 1978, when the shah's executioners massacred the Iranian people. The meeting can only be interpreted to mean that Hua instigated the savage bloodshed, prepared by the monarchial executioners, and nothing else. Everyone knows that the PRC, even after the victory of the Iranian revolution, opposed it.

A similar, unexpected move, one can assume, has now happened in Beijing's policy. Supposedly the PRC has offered friendly propositions to the Islamic Republic of Iran. If we analyze events and realities, one can say that this move was not that unexpected. The PRC's unprincipled forign policy during the past 10 years confirms this reality.

In the international political scene today's PRC is acting in unity with imperialism's most reactionary forces. Everyone is aware of the PRC's close relations with the United States, its support for the fascist regimes of Chile and Guatemala, and its favor for the aggressive NATO treaty. U.S. Secretary of State Haig even called the PRC the 16th member of NATO. The PRC supports Islamabad and provides it with all kinds of military assistance, this to a regime that has granted the United States a military base just 80 miles from the Iranian border. Beijing is also cooperating with Israel and the rascist Republic of South Africa. In a word, Beijing's foreign policy parallels international reaction's foreign policy.

In the course of these events during the past 10 years we witnessed PRC propaganda on the need to struggle against imperialism and to support -- in words only -- the freedom movements of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Therefore, it becomes clear that contradictions in Beijing's foreign policy, such as unity with imperialism on one side and imaginary support for anti-imperialist struggles on the other, are not new phenomena.

In the past few years Beijing's leadership has managed to pursue this hypocritical policy. In recent days this policy is becoming more evident and the PRC's prestige among Asian and African countries is in decline. It is very clear that the Beijing leadership is very worried about the situation and is trying to restore its lost positions in developed countries, in Iran and in Arab countries.

Let us look at Beijing's policy toward Middle East countries. The PRC supported Washington's position in favor of Israel just a few days ago. Now Beijing's leaders demogogically are denouncing Israel's actions against the Arab countries. Until recently the PRC was openly against the Iranian revolution but today it is offering its friendship to Iran. It looks as if all PRC politicians will use all sorts of words in support of Iran, but all this will remain mere words.

One thing is important for the PRC: to use all means to save itself from [word indistinct] which is the result of its demogogical policies. The PRC believes that the end justifies the means. The PRC's unprincipled methods play with the aims of nations struggling for freedom and at the same time cooperate with imperialism. This is clear to all countries of the world and especially to Third World nations.

It is very clear that despite Beijing's offer of friendship to Iran it will never be Iran's friend because Beijing does not intend to forget its cooperation with the United States and other imperialist countries. Iran is a sovereign country and knows who its friends are and which are not. History proves that those countries that believe promises from Beijing leaders fall victims to Beijing's expansionist and hegemonist policies.

ARAB LEAGUE SESSION IN TUNIS ISSUES RESOLUTION

LD271410 Moscow TASS in English 1150 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Tunis, 27 Mar, TASS -- A regular session of the Council of the League of Arab States ended its work here on Friday.

A resolution adopted by the session strongly condemns the U.S. aggressive policy vis-a-vis Libya, an economic blockade of the sovereign republic and attempts to cause damage to its development. The document stresses that the decision to hold naval exercises of the U.S. Sixth Fleet off the Libyan shores is a fresh threat to peace and security in the region. Participants in the session voiced the support of Arab countries for the Libyan Jamahiriyah in the face of the U.S. imperialism's provocative actions.

The resolution condemns all the countries, and the United States in the first place, which render assistance to Israel. The Council of the League of Arab States adopted a decision to convene an emergency session of the Arab countries' foreign ministers to discuss a dangerous situation which formed on the West Bank of the Jordan River and in the Gaza Strip as a result of brazen activities of the Israeli military towards the Arab population on the occupied Arab lands.

The council's session criticized the decision of the European Council's Political Committee to hold its session on May 17 in Jerusalem which Israel illegally proclaimed its capital.

ISRAEL MOVES TOWARD WEST BANK ANNEXATION

PM261013 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Mar 82 p 5

[Yuriy Glukhov "Commentator's Column": "No! To the Occupation"]

[Text] The general strike in occupied Arab lands -- the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip -- is in its fifth day. It broke out in response to Tel Aviv's provocative actions. The occupiers decided to impose on the Palestinians a so-called Israeli "civil administration," disbanding the existing municipal councils and replacing them with their own political appointees and conciliationists. Last Thursday the city council was disbanded in the city of Al-Birah and four Israeli officials appointed in its place. This act of tyranny, which heralded the "new" occupation system, was greeted by mass demonstrations by the Palestinians.

The Israeli authorities' machinations over "civil administration" on the West Bank and in Gaza is not just bureaucratic cunning. As is known, within the framework of the Camp David deal Tel Aviv is holding talks with Cairo on so-called Palestinian "autonomy." Under this flag the Israeli military would like to deprive the Palestinian people of their legitimate right to self-determination and the creation of their own state. The most that is being offered to the Palestinians is municipal "self-administration." The occupiers intend to maintain control of all key positions and appoint and dismiss the members of the "self-administration" organs. In effect it is a question of legalizing the occupation.

Tel Aviv was counting on formalizing a deal with Cairo by 26 April, that is, before the planned withdrawal of its troops from the last section of the occupied Sinai Peninsula. But the talks on Palestinian "autonomy" ground to a halt. In these conditions the Israeli authorities are trying to implement their plans unilaterally.

The formation of a "civil administration" is intended to give the impression that the military occupation has ended. But the change of decor will deceive nobody. As many news agencies are commenting, hot on the heels of the recently announced annexation of the Golan Heights a step is being taken toward the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza.

The Arab population of the occupied territories rejects the Israeli expansionists' brazen claims. The Druzes' strike on the Golan Heights is now in its sixth week. Now violent disturbances have seized the West Bank and Gaza. Shots are once again heard in the occupied territories and blood is being shed. But even by these methods the Israeli occupiers cannot suppress the resistance movement and stifle the voice of the Palestinians, who, under the PLO's leadership, are defending their right to independence.

PDRY LEADER 'ALI NASIR'S VISIT TO USSR POSTPONED

LD271604 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] By mutual agreement, the working visit by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and prime minister of the People's Democratic Republic of the Yemen, to the Soviet Union, planned for the end of March, is postponed to a later date to be agreed by both sides.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

GHANAIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

LD281540 Moscow TASS in English 1458 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 28 Mar, TASS -- A government delegation of the Republic of Ghana, led by member of the Provisional National Defence Council, Chris Atima, was on a friendly visit in the USSR from March 25.

Soviet-Ghanaian talks were held. The Soviet delegation at the talks was led by Nikolay Talyzin, vice-chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. The talks, which were held in a friendly atmosphere, covered the state and prospects for the development of relations between the USSR and Ghana, the situation on the African Continent and international problems of mutual interest.

The Ghanaian guests have left the Soviet Union today. The delegation was seen off at the airport by Nikolay Talyzin and other officials. Among the send-off party was Ghana's Charge d'Affaires C. van Dyck.

RSA 'RACISTS' HEARD BY U.S. CONGRESSIONAL GROUP

LD281018 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Racists from the Republic of South Africa have for the first time taken part in the work of the U.S. Congress. In the Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism, representatives from the apartheid regime were requested to testify to communist designs in southern Africa. They stated that the continent continues to live in an atmosphere of fear, violence and disorder. The racists were trying to prove that the blame lies wholly with the national liberation movements and their supporters. The main statement containing these accusations was delivered by Crocker, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs. Not bothering with proof, he flatly declared that the root of all evil lies, to quote, in the Soviet threat to Africa.

However, to repeat the same lie many times over will not turn it into truth. The show staged in the Congress can be viewed as a propagandist preparation for a new phase of interference in the affairs of African countries. This is confirmed by recent reports in the foreign press. There is news of CIA plans involving Angola, Mozambique, Ghana and the Seychelles, the latter of which has chosen a road of development not to the liking of the White House. Scenarios are feverishly being drafted for destabilization of the situation in these countries, and armed aggression is not being ruled out.

Particular prominence is assigned in the implementation of these designs to the Force for Fighting International Terrorism. This is a military unit which appeared recently in the United States and is intended to be an advanced detachment of the Rapid Deployment Force. To facilitate the speed of its operations abroad, the United States is urgently setting up new and strengthening its existing support bases -- for instance in Kenya, Somalia, Oman, Egypt, Israel and on the island of Diego Garcia. Using the rule of strength, Washington is making decisions as to where its vital interests are being threatened. The gendarme fist is being raised over independent Africa. New evidence of this is the hearing held in the U.S. Congress.

U.S. LINKED WITH PLAN TO OUST ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT

LD271720 Moscow TASS in English 1040 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Salisbury, 27 Mar, TASS -- The conspirators [unspecified], who were arrested by security organs last year, planned to overthrow the legitimate government of the republic. They were closely linked with Western special services, specifically of the United States and Britain. That was convincingly proved in the course of a trial which is under way in Bulawayo.

The same prosecutor submitted to the court a letter addressed to one of the defendants. In the letter it was written that "a certain American friend" was ready for 5,000-pounds sterling to "physically remove the unsuitable persons." A cheque payable to bearer and the details of the assignment were to be sent to Bristol, Britain, to an address mentioned in the letter. In face of irrefutable evidence, the defendants were compelled to admit that they "had contacts with representatives of the British Special Airborne Service and conducted negotiations with foreign mercenaries."

Planning the conspiracy [words indistinct], the so-called "auxiliary units" made of supporters of the former puppet ruler of Rhodesia Muzorewa. The latter is known to have been long cooperating with the espionage agency of the racist Republic of South Africa.

A mutiny was to begin with seizure of Zimbabwean major air force base Thornhill, the police building in Gwelo, the infantry school in Gokwe. It was planned to attck military garrisons in Bulawayo and other cities. The trial in Bulawayo reaffirmed that the plan of the putsch had been drawn up under the direction of careermen of Western espionage services and the espionage service of the racist Republic of South Africa.

MOSCOW IN ZULU BACKS NAMIBIA'S STRUGGLE

LD280128 Moscow in Zulu to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Commentary by Leonid Levchenko]

[Text] There are 50 governments in Africa which are free and independent. It is only South Africa that is left out. Three-quarters of the population in South Africa are black people and all of these are appressed and harassed by the government. There are 700,000 black people in various jails.

The racist government in Pretoria has been censured by the United Nations for its presence in Namibia. Namibia is illegally occupied by the Boers and is used as a launching pad when Angola is harassed. As it is, Angola, bordering Namibia, is full of South African troops.

The African Continent is not yet free as long as force is still used in southern Africa and Namibia. This is written in the OAU Charter. This danger of the presence of the apartheid government has long been appreciated, even during 1963 when the charter was drawn. It was started that all types of oppression and racism must be eliminated. Today [words indistinct] South Africa to eliminate racism and apartheid. This form of government is cursed. That is why there is this dispute about Namibia's independence and about ending apartheid in Africa.

This measure is supported by the UN Security Council's decision. If this has not been achieved, it is because of the United States and other Western countries. As we are talking, the South African racists go in and out of Washington. What is more important is that the U.S. rulers do not hide the fact that they sympathize with South Africa. Now they say Pretoria is a country of friends. Because of this new friendship, the racists are encouraged more and more by the policies of the Western powers toward South Africa. What remains is to destroy the efforts of sorting out the affairs of the people of Namibia. This would be done in order to strengthen the puppet government which is against the wishes of the people of Namibia.

The Soviet Union at all times supports the people of Africa. Their struggle for freedom and against racism is the struggle of the Soviet people as the leader of the Soviet Union, Mr Leonid Brezhnev, said. We will continue to support the liberation movement in Namibia, to the resolutions of the United Nations a reality and to support the wishes of the OAU in this matter.

MATERIALS ON ELECTION 'FARCE' IN EL SALVADOR

Chigir Commentary

LD262012 Moscow TASS in English 1750 GMT 26 Mar 82

["'Elections' Washington Style" -- TASS headline; by TASS political news analyst Nikolay Chigir]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar, TASS -- The "elections" scheduled to take place in El Salvador on March 28 are viewed by the world public, the press, statesmen and politicians as a blatant farce and a travesty of common sense and the ideals of democracy. What elections, one may ask, can be held in a country engulfed in a civil war, with the military oligarchic clique usurping power and perpetrating full-scale genocide against the people and practising terror and violence as the main tool of its policy? How can one talk at all about any democratic institutions in a country stripped of all the attributes of independence and staying under complete military, political and economic control of a foreign power?

The current dictatorial regime in El Salvador was established as a result of a military coup perpetrated with Washington's blessing and under its immediate guidance. (?Since) that time, particularly after the Reagan administration was installed in the United States, it is Washington that has been controlling the reins of power in El Salvador. The so-called military-civilian junta cannot take a step without U.S. approval, and it clings to power only thanks to the unprecedentedly largescale military and economic support of the United States. Moreover, it is U.S. military "advisers" and other Pentagon and CIA representatives who are actually controlling the junta's repressive machinery and directing (?punitive operations) against the Salvadoran people and their patriotic forces, in the course of which about 40,000 Salvadorans have already perished.

The stage managers of the Salvadoran "elections" are not in San Salvador but in Washington, which is unequivocally pointed out by the Western [word indistinct] press as well. The Reagan administration spares no effort to cover up with the help of the "elections" the absolute lack of any legality in the Salvadoran junta, the French [words indistinct] says in particular. According to the plans of the Washington administration, the stage-managed elections in El Salvador are called upon to mislead the American and world public, to create the impression that "a process of democratisation" is taking place in the country, to "legitimise" and buttress the current regime and in this way to create favourable conditions for a more extensive intervention in the country's internal affairs so as to suppress the national liberation movement of the Salvadoran people.

To all appearances, the Washington leaders have so much got used to regarding El Salvador as their happy hunting grounds that they are not ashamed of admitting it in public. For instance, U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig warned after his meeting with the foreign ministers of El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica that the U.S. administration would not tolerate in El Salvador any government that would not please it. According to the TV company CBS, the head of the U.S. foreign policy establishment said in connection with the forthcoming "elections" in El Salvador that any government in that country should be committed to the same principles as the current puppet junta. In other words, it should, as before, unquestionably do the bidding of its American masters.

The farce with the "elections" in El Salvador is in fact similar to the show recently staged in Guatemala, which immediately collapsed and which graphically demonstrated the lack of principle and hypocrisy of the Washington champions of "freedom" and "democracy." It shows that "elections" for them are merely a screen with which they are trying to conceal their interventionist policy in Central America.

Security Measures Taken

LD281624 Moscow TASS in English 1532 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] New York, 28 Mar, TASS -- The Salvadorean junta has resorted to extraordinary measures of security in order to "guarantee" the political farce--"elections" to the constitutional assembly to be held today. Troops, reinforced with the special punitive Brigade "Atlacatl" were moved to San Salvador streets. The key districts of the capital are patrolled by tanks and armoured carriers. The junta threatened to make short work of anybody who would stay away from the polling station.

The NBC television company reports that the elections scandal has already started flaring up. As is asserted by a number of candidates at the elections, 10,000 ballot forms "vanished into thin air." The junta refused from registers and supporters of extreme right-wing candidates got a possibility to cast votes at several polling stations. [sentence as received]

The majority of the Salvadorean people turn down the farce. Also unanimous is the reaction of the world public. Only six countries, out of 60 which received the junta's invitation to send their observers to El Salvador, responded to the invitation. Among those countries are the United States, Haiti, Uruguay, and Chile. The United Nations and the International Red Cross, which repeatedly disclosed the crimes of the Salvadorean military and its American supporters, refused to send their observers to El Salvador. According to international organizations, more than 32,000 Salvadoreans lost their lives in repressions since January 1980; 500,000 people were compelled to look for refuge abroad, while 300,000 became refugees in their own country.

The Salvadorean patriots answered to yet another political trick of the junta and Washington with the heightening of anti-dictatorship struggle. As is reported by news agencies, a few hours before the election farce began, guerrillas attacked the presidential palace. For 30 minutes the palace was under intensive fire. Simultaneously the insurgents blew up seven election stations in the eastern part of San Salvador and engaged in an exchange of fire with army patrols in a number of districts of the capital. The main barracks of the Salvadorean army were also attacked. The patriots hold in their hands the earlier captured positions near the Ilopango Air Base, located 20 kilometres of [as received] San Salvador. The third largest city of El Salvador, Usulutan, became an arena of fierce fighting. Guerrillas blew up a bridge on the approaches to the city, hampering the transfer of reinforcements to the surrounded junta's units. The army garrison in San Francisco Gotera, the administrative center of the Morasan Department, is encircled as before.

Poor Organization Charged

LD291126 Moscow TASS in English 1107 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] New York, 29 Mar, TASS -- The Washington-staged farce of elections was held in El Salvador Sunday. The "elections" from which left-wing forces were barred were designed to legalize the rule of the puppet regime completely subordinated to the United States. The results have not been announced thus far. It is known, however, that the organisers of the farce created every condition for falsification or fraud. There were no lists of electors, and a person had only to show his or her identification card to be allowed to vote. It was possible to vote many times in several polling centers. Several hours before the elections, according to the American NBC television company, a scandal broke out because of the "disappearance" of 10,000 ballots.

Describing the conditions under which the "elections" were held, the New York TIMES writes that electors cast their ballots to the accompaniment of not too distant exchanges of fire. According to reports of news agencies, on the eve of the "elections" the insurgents sharply stepped up their actions throughout the country, including in the capital. In a number of places voting was disrupted, and there was not voting in the Chalatenango and Uzulutan Provinces controlled by the guerrillas.

INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO SALVADORANS URGED

LD290728 Moscow TASS in English 0700 GMT 29 Mar 82

[By TASS correspondent Igor Golubev]

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Mar, TASS -- An international forum of solidarity with the Salvadorean people, which closed here Sunday, launched a call for greater support to the struggle of the Salvadorean patriots. The forum was attended by delegates from more than eighty national and regional solidarity committees from Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America. The forum adopted a political declaration stressing that the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, heading the struggle of the masses, are the sole and genuine representatives of the Salvadorean people.

The delegates strongly denounced U.S. imperialism's growing interference in El Salvador and the U.S. Government's lavish military aid to the Salvadorean military junta.

They favoured the launching of an international campaign for termination of U.S. military aid to the Salvadorean junta and withdrawl of all the American advisers from the country.

The declaration points out that the forum's participants back the initiative of the Revolutionary Democratic Front and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front directed at finding a political solution of the Salvadorean conflict. They reject the electoral farce in El Salvador which is nothing but another political defeat of the course of the military junta and the U.S. Government.

The forum's participants worked out a plan of concrete actions within the framework of solidarity with the struggle of the Salvadorean people. It provides, in particular, for organising and holding during the coming months meetings and demonstrations in major world capitals and collection of money for the Salvadorean population.

An international front of solidarity with the people of El Salvador has been instituted at the forum. The front's activities will be directed by a special bureau with its headquarters in Mexico City.

REPORTAGE OF GUATEMALAN MILITARY COUP

'Desperate Attempt' by Washington

LD261940 Moscow TASS in English 1948 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Managua, 26 Mar, TASS -- The military coup in Guatemala is a desperate attempt of the Washington administration and the reactionary Guatemalan military to save the repressive pro-imperialist regime against which the whole people is waging the struggle. This is said in a statement of the Guatemalan national revolutionary unity organization which includes the Guatemalan workers party and other patriotic organizations of the country.

The statement says that having removed from the political scene the odious clique of Lucas Garcia, the Reagan government hopes to create the conditions for a sharp stepping up of the military and financial aid to the dictatorship and thus avoid its being overthrown. This manoeuvre is part of the counterrevolutionary plan that has been drawn up by Washington in an effort to undermine the development of the national liberation movement in Central America and pave the ground for intervention. But the replacement of some oppressors with others that has been inspired by imperialism has not changed the essence of the regime of tyranny. The United States and internal reaction will be unable to mislead the Guatemalan people and the world public. It will be possible to solve acute political, social and economic problems of the country only after the victory of the revolution and establishment of a popular democratic government, the statement says.

U.S. Ties Cited

LD270326 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Last week there was a coup in Guatemala. The NBC has described the rebels as rightwing military. They arrested and deported President Lucas Garcia, dissolved the congress which had just elected Anibal Guevara the country's new president and suspended the constitution. Here is a commentary from our observer Aleksandr (Baryshev).

Shortly before the coup, general elections were held in Guatemala. Taking part in them were only the rightwing and extreme rightwing parties. The elections were blatantly rigged in spite of the fact that only reactionary candidates were involved and as a result the official government candidate, Gen Anibal Guevara was elected president. Other contenders demanded that the election result be declared null and void. The elections and the events in Guatemala should be viewed in the context of the relationship between the Reagan administration and the repressive regime in Guatemala.

Let me remind you at this point that the White House, clearly concerned at the momentum gathered by the movement against the dictatorial regime in Guatemala, sent there some time ago the former deputy head of the CIA, Mr Walters. His mission was to discuss with the authorities there the resumption of the American military aid suspended by President Carter. In 1977 President Carter got so carried away by his campaign, ostensibly in defense of human rights but actually aimed at slandering the socialist countries, that he went so far as to rebuke the Guatemalan military ruler Lucas Garcia. Following American remonstrations, the Guatemalan Government decided to make a stand and said it did not want any more American military aid. Washington immediately decided to cut short this aid to Guatemala and make a lot of fuss about it.

Now that the Reagan team has decided to sweep Mr Carter's human rights campaign under the carpet and adopted a policy of suppressing the national liberation movement in Central America, United States military aid to Guatemala is about to be resumed. The American newsman, Alan (Nearn), who has visited Guatemala, says that President Reagan and his closest aides maintain contacts with Guatemalan businessmen and the rightwing extremists from the notorious death squad. Mr Reagan proposed that military aid to the Guatemalan Army and police be resumed and an end be put to State Department criticism of mass human rights violations in Guatemala. Later on, the White House bypassed Congress and managed to send the regime in Guatemala $3 million worth of military aid. During his mission in Guatemala Mr Walters is reported to have requested the Guatemalan rulers to make a show of respect for human rights and promised to help them lay it on. The signs are that the coup proceeded along the lines suggested by Mr Walters. Some American newspapers are trying to persuade their readers that the coup leader, General Montt, is a man of Christian, democratic beliefs and a moderate politician, favoring reforms. There has been no official statement on Guatemala from the White House yet. The newspapers also claim that the general and his associates will restore democracy in the country. The message of these comments is that there is really no reason why the new Guatemalan military rulers should not get American aid, including military aid. After all, they are democrats. But the first thing these democrats did on assuming power was to welcome and declare their support for the fascist national liberation movement and the other extreme rightwing groups.

KNYAZEV ON U.S. POLICY TOWARD NICARAGUA

LD261748 Moscow TASS in English 1520 GMT 26 Mar 82

["Hands off Nicaragua!" -- TASS headline; by TASS commentator Ruslan Knyazev]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Mar, TASS -- Addressing the U.N. Security Council on Thursday, Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the steering council of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua, demanded that the United States officially and openly declare that it will not attack his country and renounce direct, indirect or covert intervention in Central America.

The escalation of Washington's armed intervention in Central America, which has forced the Nicaraguan Government to request the urgent convocation of the Security Council, is causing growing worry in the world. Many countries denounce Washington's threats against Cuba and Nicaragua and U.S. intervention in Salvadorean affairs on the side of the undemocratic junta, intervention that is reckless and very dangerous to peace.

Seeking to secure a peaceful settlement of the situation in the region on the basis of strict respect for the right of its peoples to decide their destinies themselves, the Nicaraguan Government has made important constructive proposals. The peace initiatives of Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, which have won large-scale international support, point in the same direction. Washington, however, is actually ignoring them because it has never given a clear official answer to them.

At the same time, behind the smokescreen of a vociferous slander campaign about the Nicaraguans' "intervention" in the Salvadoran conflict on the side of the people's forces, the United States is steadily building up its military muscle in Central America and the Caribbean and escalating preparations for extensive subversive activities against revolutionary Nicaragua.

Incontrovertible facts about these anti-Nicaraguan activities of Washington, contravening the U.N. Charter and the basic rules of international law, are known to the whole world. These include the crash military training of gangs of Nicaraguan counter-revolutionaries on U.S. territory and in the areas of Honduras bordering on Nicaragua, massive arms supplies to them and numerous acts of armed provocation against Nicaragua. The U.S. National Security Council has approved the allocation of 19 million dollars for American covert operations to subvert the legitimate Government of Nicaragua, including economic sabotage, raids of armed gangs and arms supplies to counter-revolutionaries within the country.

That is why the demand of the Nicaraguan Government that the United States immediately stop any acts of aggression against that Central American country and assume the obligation not to intervene in Central American affairs is well-grounded and just. It if fully supported by all the peace forces in the world.

KIRKPATRICK'S REMARKS ON NICARAGUA ASSAILED

LD271830 Moscow TASS in English 1803 GMT 27 Mar 82

["Mrs Kirkpatrick's Lies" -- TASS headline; by TASS commentator Mikhail Artyushenkov]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Mar, TASS -- Jeane Kirkpatrick, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, has addressed the emergency session of the UN Security Council convened at Nicaragua's request with the allegations that the situation in Nicaragua was better under the dictator Somoza than it is today.

This allegation is glaringly at odds with reality. One can agree with Mrs. Kirkpatrick only in that the situation in Nicaragua under Somoza was better for the American monopolies, for the United States which held unchallenged sway in that country, plundered its national resources and oppressed the Nicaraguan people.

Somoza's Nicaragua was blindly following in the wake of Washington's foreign policy," "We depend on the United States and are not ashamed of saying so," Somoza would stress.

The dictator and his Washington patrons brought the country and its people to abject poverty. Nicaragua, turned into an appendage of the U.S. monopolies, was the most backward country in the Western Hemisphere. Joblessness stood at more than 40 percent of the employable population, and illiteracy amounted to 70 percent and even 90 percent in the countryside. There were only 6 physicians per 10,000 of the population, and even those practised primarily in cities. The country's foreign debts totalled 1,600 million dollars.

There was rampant terror in the country, and the basic human rights were grossly violated. Goals were overcrowded with political prisoners, and opposition figures were persecuted and tortured.

The situation radically changed after the victory of the revolution. The American monopolies can no longer do their will uncontrollably in the country, which has a true master, the people. Last year, according to the statistics cited in the annual report of the Inter-american Development Bank, Nicaragua's gross national product increase by 5 percent as compared with one percent in the rest of Latin America (with the exception of Cuba).

During the little more than a year that has passed since the revolution altogether 112,000 jobs have been created in the country and unemployment thus cut back by more than half. The inflation rate decreased by more than three-fourths. Illiteracy has been eradicated almost completely, and measures are being taken to improve health care, to raise the living standard of the population and to provide housing. An agrarian reform is being carried out.

All this is being done against the background of U.S. economic and political pressure, the threat of armed intervention, and acts of provocation and subversion. That is why the statement of the U.S. official representatives to the United Nations with regard to today's Nicaragua does not at all tally with facts. Apparently, Mrs. Kirkpatrick has a very short memory and does not remember how things were even not so long ago.

'CONCRETE PLANS' FOR U.S. AGGRESSION IN NICARAGUA

PM261525 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 19 Mar 82 p 3

[Aleksandr Trushin article under the rubric "Our Commentary": "Shadow of Aggression Over Nicaragua"]

[Text] Secret U.S. plans to strangle the Nicaraguan revolution are coming to fruition. U.S. imperialism intends to switch from blackmailing and threatening the Nicaraguan Government to carrying out concrete plans for aggression against the republic. Washington is preparing an armed incursion into Nicaragua using counterrevolutionary gangs holed up on U.S. territory in Miami and in Honduras. The U.S. secret services' decision to raise a mercenary army is a prelude to this.

Ignoring the Nicaraguan authorities' proposals for normalizing the situation in Central America, and U.S.-Nicaraguan relations in particular, the Reagan administration is encouraging armed attacks, sabotage and acts of terrorism on Nicaraguan territory. The increase in the number of flights made in Nicaraguan airspace by U-2 spy planes is evidence of Washington's militarist preparations. Surveillance is also carried out from U.S. spy satellites and Navy vessels cruising off the Nicaraguan coast. A group of U.S. destroyers has entered the Gulf of Fonseca, whose waters wash the Nicaraguan coast.

The White House is accompanying its acceleration of preparations for direct armed intervention with unbridled anti-Nicaraguan hysteria. The aim is to create a false impression of Nicaraguan reality and at the same time conceal the U.S. interventionist plans. The threat of such plans being carried out is forcing Nicaragua's revolutionary government to take appropriate measures to defend the state system and the republic's security. The government has issued a decree declaring a state of emergency in the country. At rallies and demonstrations held in Managua and other parts of the country, Nicaraguans have been firmly declaring their determination to defend the revolution's gains.

PENTAGON PLANS TO 'STIFLE' NICARAGUAN REGIME

LD271600 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0830 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Moscow, 27 Mar, (TASS) -- In the U.S. capital the foreign ministers of three Central American states -- El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica -- have come together. They are having talks with President R. Reagan, Secretary of State Haig and other representatives of the U.S. administration. The aim of this meeting, officially announced, is to discuss the "Reagan initiative" on "aid to Washington's friends in Central America and the Caribbean."

But, in actual fact, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA writes today, the White House has organized the gathering to coordinate the details of joint actions against revolutionary Nicaragua. It is known that the Pentagon has worked out several variants on how to stifle the progressive regime in that country. One envisages the seizure of a bridgehead on the territory of Nicaragua by bands of Somoza supporters. Meanwhile, jointly with several Latin American countries, the United States will mount a military and naval blockade of the republic. The pretext has been prepared too, "prevention of foreign interference". According to the Pentagon's script the aggression will start from Honduras and Costa Rica. It is precisely there, the paper stresses, that the CIA is now intensively training [nataskivayet] the Somozan terrorists.

REAGAN, C. AMERICA OFFICIALS DISCUSS ECONOMIC PLAN

LD261114 Moscow TASS in English 1008 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Washington, 26 Mar, TASS -- President Reagan met on Thursday the foreign ministers of El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica who have arrived in Washington. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who was present at the meeting, then conversed with the ministers separately. Although the formal purpose of this visit was to discuss the so-called American "economic plan" for the Caribbean Basin the talks reportedly concentrated on the political situation in Central America and the forthcoming "elections in El Salvador. All the three regimes have the support of Washington whose policy in the region is designed to keep at any price the pro-American dictatorships in power and to suppress the national liberation movement.

In this connection commentators say that the U.S. Government leaders and the foreign ministers of El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica discussed a certain "coordination of positions."

Alexander Haig said to pressmen after the meeting that the United States would continue supporting the "struggle" against the Salvadoran insurgents. As is known, Washington has sharply increased its military aid to Duarte's repressive regime. Press reports say that American aid to Duarte is to be brought up to 600-800 million dollars within the next eighteen months.

UN 'EMERGENCY SESSION' ON LATIN AMERICA BEGINS

LD261034 Moscow TASS in English 0920 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] New York, 26 Mar, TASS -- Escalation of U.S. armed interference in Central America is on the agenda of an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council which Thursday started debates on Nicaragua's complaint against the American administration's subversive actions and its attempts to stop by force the process of democratic and social changes in the region.

The U.S. decision to start implementing covert operations against the Nicaraguan revolution has so exacerbated the crisis that the threat of immediate intervention in Central America compelled Nicaragua to address the Security Council. Daniel Ortega Saverda, coordinator of the ruling council of Nicaragua's Government of National [Re]construction, told the session. He cited numerous facts confirming that such intervention is already taking place. Ortega mentioned, in particular, the existence of camps in Florida, training Somozist counter-revolutionaries, and similar camps in Honduras at which about 2,000 bandits are trained by CIA instructors. Starting from March 15, the Honduras-based camps began to receive great amounts of weapons, including M-16 rifles, grenades, grenade-launchers and explosives. The United States took a decision to build shortly two bases on Honduran territory -- an air base and a naval base.

Instances of armed provocations against Nicaragua have become more frequent. The National Security Council approved the allocation of $19 million for operations aimed at destabilizing the situation in Nicaragua, which means economic sabotage, armed raids and shipments of arms to Somozists inside the country.

Daniel Ortega demanded that the U.S. Government put an end to the use of Honduran territory as a jumping off ground for armed aggression and terrorist actions against Nicaragua, and close down the military camps in U.S. territory training counter-revolutionaries. Washington's intelligence services should stop financing, training and organizing anti-government forces.

The Nicaraguan leader demanded from the United States "to voice in an official and explicit manner its commitment not to [word indistinct] Nicaragua, nor to initiate or promote any direct, indirect or covert intervention in Central America." He declared that the Nicaraguan Government is ready for immediate talks with Washington which might settle all problems by peaceful means.

The Non-Aligned Movement has been following with grave concern in recent years the aggravation of the situation in Central America and the Caribbean brought about by the imperialist policy of interference and desire to violate the will of the peoples, Cuba's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Raul Roa-Kouri said, speaking on behalf of the non-aligned countries. The right of Latin American peoples to independence, sovereignty, self-determination and implementation of political, economic and social changes in society, and full control over their natural resources has repeatedly [been] confirmed at forums of the non-aligned countries.

Washington's intrigues in Central America, said Angola's permanent representative to the United Nations Elisio [Avila de Jesus] Figueiredo, are only one part of the large-scale subversive plan of international imperialism against progressive peoples and states. The efforts to destabilise Nicaragua, Cuba and Grenada are similar to the imperialist scheming in Africa, and the West's support for the aggressive policy of the racist-ruled Republic of South Africa.

TASHKENT ON BREZHNEV'S DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW

GF271958 Tashkent International Service in Uzbek 1700 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, remained in Tashkent for 4 days. Leonid Brezhnev arrived in Tashkent to attend jubilant ceremonies related to the awarding of the Lenin Order -- the highest USSR award -- to the Uzbek SSR. During his stay, Leonid Brezhnev visited the Tashkent tractor factory and (Aviata factory). He also visited a kholkhoz in the the Tashkent Oblast.

In a jubilant ceremony held by the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee and the Uzbek Supreme Soviet Presidium, Leonid Brezhnev delivered an (?important) address while presenting our country's highest order to the Uzbek SSR. In his address, he highly appraised the Uzbek SSR's progress in the economic and cultural fields. Leonid Brezhnev reiterated the (?wish) of the Soviet people to live in peace and friendship with the peoples of the world as stipulated by the peaceloving policy of the CPSU and the USSR.

On 25 March, Leonid Brezhnev presented the Order of the October Revolution at a jubilant ceremony to Sharaf Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee. On the same day, Leonid Brezhnev departed from Tashkent. The people of Tashkent bid a warm farewell to Leonid Brezhnev. Tens of thousands of people crowded the squares of Tashkent [words indistinct] to bid farewell to Leonid Brezhnev. The noble guest was seen off at Tashkent airport by Sharaf Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Uzbek Communist Party; Inamdzhan Usmankhodzhayev, chairman of the Uzbek Supreme Soviet Presidium; Narmakhonmadi Khudayberdyyev, chairman of the Uzbek Council of Ministers Presidium; and leaders coming from other neighboring fraternal republics such as: Dinmukhamed Kunayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Kazakh Communist Party Central Committee; Turdakun Usubaliyev, first secretary of the Kirgiz Communist Party Central Committee; Dzhabar Rasulov, first secretary of the Tadzhik Communist Party Central Committee; Mukhamednazar Gapurov, first secretary of the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee; and other [word indistinct] individuals.

MESSAGE ON ORDER OF LENIN ISSUED IN UZBEK SSR

GF261639 Tashkent Domestic Service in Russian 1315 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Summary] The Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, the Uzbek Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Uzbek Council of Ministers have issued a message to the Uzbek workers, Kolkhozers, intelligentsia, leaders of the national economic organs, communists, workers of the Komsomol and all workers of the republic on the occasion of the presentation to the Uzbek SSR of the Order of Lenin. Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, presented the state high appraisal to the republic for the great labor exploits of the multinational Uzbek SSR people. Lenin's usual behest of the Uzbek communist workers motivates them to concentrate efforts for eliminating shortcomings and fulfilling their tasks. The Uzbek workers are committed to mobilizing the speech of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, which he delivered during the ceremoney held to mark the presentation of the Order of Lenin to the Uzbek SSR.

The Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, the Uzbek Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Uzbek Council of Ministers called on the workers of Uzbekistan on the occasion of the presentation of the Order of Lenin and the high appraisal of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev to realize the historical tasks of the party and to respond with intensive labor to successfully fulfill and over fulfill the tasks during the 11th 5-Year Plan period and to achieve further success in honor of the nation.

The Uzbek Communist Party Central Committee, the Uzbek Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Uzbek Council of Ministers believe that communists and all workers of the republic will exert every effort to respond practically to the tasks specified by the 26th CPSU Congress and to the recommendations and instructions of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev.

TRUD REPORTAGE ON TRADE UNIONS CONGRESS

Vietnamese Delegation's Speech

PM261023 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Mar 82 p 3

[Unattributed report on speech delivered by Nguyen Duc Thuan, chairman of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions, at 17 March session of 17th USSR Trade Union Congress in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses, Moscow, under the general heading "Greetings From Foreign Guests"]

[Text] Permit me to convey to the congress' delegates, and, through you, to all the working class and the great Soviet people, the warmest fraternal greetings, on behalf of the Vietnamese trade unions and all Vietnam's working people. Having a sense of profound sympathy toward the Soviet Union, motherland of the great Lenin and the October Revolution and reliable bulwark of all the planet's progressive forces, the Vietnamese people sincerely rejoice in the USSR's tremendous achievements in all spheres.

We place a high value, the speaker stressed, on Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's pithy speech at the 17th Soviet Trade Union Congress, which vividly illuminates the problems of international relations and the world trade union movement and questions of the USSR trade unions' activity.

The Vietnamese trade unions warmly support the Soviet trade unions' multifaceted, effective activity, spoken of in the report delivered at the congress by AUCCTU Chairman Comrade S.A. Shalayev.

In the last 5 years the Vietnamese people, inspired by the decisions of the Fourth Vietnam Communist Party [VCP] congress, have achieved great successes in all spheres. Developing these successes, the Vietnamese working people are actively participating in socialist competition and the movement for savings and are preparing to greet the forthcoming Fifth VCP Congress in a fitting manner.

Alongside the achievements, our country also has economic difficulties. We have to fight against the aggressive actions of the Beijing hegemonists and expansionists who, together with American imperialism, are pursuing a policy hostile to the SRV, Laos and Kampuchea. But we are confident that the Vietnamese people, true to the traditions of the resolute struggle for independence and socialism and the firm solidarity of Indochina's peoples and drawing on all-round cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other fraternal socialist countries and the support of the working class and the peoples throughout the world, will continue successfully building socialism and will reliably defend their motherland.

In conclusion the speaker expressed cordial gratitude to the CPSU, the Soviet Government, the AUCCTU and all the Soviet people for their help and support.

SFRY's Spiljak Address

PM261041 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Mar 82 p 3

[Unattributed report on speech delivered at 18 March evening session of the 17th USSR Trade Unions Congress by Mika Spiljak, member of the Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia Presidium, under the general heading "Greetings From Foreign Guests"]

[Text] Addressing the congress' delegates, the speaker said the Yugoslav working class and entire people are following your country's socialist development attentively and rejoice in the success that you are achieving.

I should particularly like to emphasize my satisfaction at the fact that all-around fruitful cooperation between our two socialist countries, to which the trade unions have made and continue to make a contribution, is expanding and constantly being improved on the basis of mutual respect, equal rights and mutual interest.

Describing the successes of socialist building in Yugoslavia, the speaker noted that a lasting, just peace is essential to implement the revolutionary social and economic transformations that the world's workers and progressive forces are seeking. It is not enough just to advocate peace -- it must be persistently struggled for.

In this connection the speaker pointed to the great role of the trade unions and working people in the struggle against the arms race, which now swallows over $1.5 billion a day, and against the consequences of the economic crisis in the capitalist world -- unemployment and the restriction and abrogation of the working masses' existing social rights.

All this requires that all the world's trade unions, irrespective of the conditions in which they operate, constantly review and improve their activity and the methods and objectives of their struggle, perfect their cooperation in questions of the defense of the working people's interests and rights and carry out the broadest exchange of information and experience.

The Confederation of Trade Unions of Yugoslavia, proceeding from a policy of worker solidarity, will continue to grant unreserved and totally unconditional support and aid to all trade unions and liberation movements and peoples struggling for national, political, economic and social freedoms, within the limits of its potential.

Mongolian Delegate's Speech

PM261011 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Mar 82 p 3

[Unattribted report on speech delivered at 17th USSR Trade Union Congress 18 March evening session by (Gombozhavyn Ochirbat), chairman of the Central Council of Mongolian Trade Unions, under general heading "Greetings From Foreign Guests"]

[Text] On behalf of the Mongolian working class and trade unions the speaker conveyed fraternal greetings and best wishes to the congress delegates. Noting that the Soviet Union is marching confidently in the vanguard of the struggle for peace and progress, he stressed the great significance of the new peace-loving Soviet initiatives.

The award of the WFTU gold medal to Comrade L.I. Brezhnev for his truly titanic activity for the benefit of all mankind, the speaker stated, is an expression of the will of working people in all countries of the world.

Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's graphic and profound speech and the AUCCTU report and entire work of the 17th congress, the speaker continued, give a clear answer to the most topical questions of the present-day trade union movement. The USSR trade unions are making a fitting contribution to the theory and practice of the trade union movement under the conditions of socialism and have always marched and continue to march in the front ranks of the struggle for peace and the unity of the international workers and trade union movement.

Then the speaker described the successes of his country's working people in building a new society and their preparation for the Mongolian trade unions' 12th congress. On behalf of the Mongolian working class and trade unions he expressed heartfelt thanks to the CPSU and the heroic working class and all working people of the land of the soviets for their tireless concern for the welfare of the Mongolian people and their sincere fraternal friendship.

In launching extensive international socialist competition in honor of the glorious 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR -- the world's first multinational socialist state -- the speaker said in conclusion, the Mongolian working people express their unvarying feeling of devotion to Leninist Mongolian-Soviet friendship and a tribute of deep respect to the Soviet people, who opened the way to communism.

DPRK Delegate's Address

PM261509 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Mar 82 p 3

[Unattributed report on speech delivered at 18 March evening session of the 17th USSR Trade Unions Congress by Kim Pong-Chu, chairman of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea Central Committee, under the general heading "Greetings From Foreign Guests"]

[Text] On behalf of the DPRK working people the speaker conveyed warm greetings to the congress delegates and all Soviet working people. He said that the entire history of the Soviet Union, founded by the great Lenin and the Bolshevik Party, is closely linked with the selfless and creative labor of the country's working class -- the vanguard of the socialist revolution.

Today the USSR trade unions are mobilizing the working people to fulfill the tasks of the second year of the 11th 5-Year Plan ahead of schedule, striving for great successes in the struggle for the consolidation of peace and opposing the policy of imperialism, headed by the United States.

Allow me to take the opportunity given to me, the speaker continued, to warmly welcome the successes that the Soviet Union's working people and trade unions are achieving under the leadership of the CPSU, headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, in developing their country and strengthening the might of the USSR. We sincerely wish you new achievements in your further work and the implementation of the decisions to be taken by the congress.

The speaker then reported on how the DPRK working people are seeking to accelerate socialist building. He expressed profound thanks to the AUCCTU and all USSR working people for their resolute opposition to the U.S. imperialists' occupation of South Korea and for their active support and solidarity with the Korean People's struggle for the reunification of their motherland.

Our working class, bearing aloft the banner of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, the banner of anti-imperialism and independence, the speaker said in conclusion, will continue to strengthen cohesion with the fraternal Soviet working class and to struggle for the building of a free and flourishing new world where there is no imperialism or colonialism, exploitation or oppression.

DRA Delegate's Speech

PM261113 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Mar 82 p 3

[Unattributed report on speech delivered at 18 March evening session of the 17th USSR Trade Unions Congress by Abdul Sattar Pordeli, chairman of the Afghan Central Council of Trade Unions, under the general heading "Greetings From Foreign Guests"]

[Text] Afghanistan's young trade union organization, the speaker said, together with the country's entire people, is building a new, just, democratic society under our party's leadership. Under the conditions of the undeclared war that is being waged by international imperialism, hegemonism and local reaction against revolutionary Afghanistan, our party and government are carrying out profound social transformations.

The first national conference completed its work recently, adopting a PDPA action program aimed at strengthening the country's economy and defense and building a new, just society in Afghanistan for the happiness of all nations, ethnic groups and tribes living in our country.

The Soviet Union, loyal to proletarian internationalism, invariably and selflessly supports our peoples' desire to wipe out social and national oppression in the country.

The speaker voiced heartfelt thanks to the Soviet trade unions, which have rendered and continue to render all-around aid and support.

It has become known, the speaker continued, that on instructions from U.S. President Reagan, imperialism recently declared 21 March a day of solidarity with the Afghan counterrevolution. The Afghan trade unions, together with all the republic's working people, angrily protest imperialism's new act of interference in our country's internal affairs. Here I want to quote the words of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, who very aptly and graphically said: "It should be time that those who are weaving intrigues against the Afghan people realize that however they may try to prevent Afghanistan from marching along the path of independence and progress, these attempts are doomed to failure. The sun of freedom has risen over Afghanistan and no one can extinguish it."

GDR's Tisch Press Comments

PM261437 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Mar 82 p 3

[R. Kolchanov report: "The Press Center of the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress"]

[Text] The businesslike rhythm of the sessions in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses is clearly reflected in the work of the press center on Zubovskiy Boulevard. Soviet and foreign journalists receive the necessary information on the spot, there is uninterrupted communication and the teletypes bring in news about events in our country and abroad.

Great interest is aroused among the journalists by meetings with delegates and guests at the Soviet working people's high forum. Yesterday representatives of the press were addressed by H. Tisch, head of the GDR trade union delegation and chairman of the Central Board of the Free German Trade Union Federation. The congress constructive work, he said, has made a very great impression on our delegation. Really important trade union problems, both in domestic and international terms, are being discussed. The report and the delegates' speeches show the magnitude of the Soviet trade unions' role, their extensive rights and their profound commitment to securing more and more new successes in socialist building for the sake of man, under the party's leadership.

The present trade union forum, H. Tasch stressed, is of historic significance. The speech by L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, rang out with tremendous force. He set forth a concrete program aimed at eliminating the arms race and preventing a nuclear conflict. The new proposals once again convincingly demonstrated the peace-loving nature of Soviet foreign policy. If all other states were to align themselves with this program, mankind's peaceful future would be assured.

H. Tisch answered questions on the activity of trade unions in the GDR and the participation of the republic's working people in the struggle for peace and social progress, set forth the GDR's stance on topical international problems, stressed the indestructible friendship between the trade unions and working people of our two countries and highly assessed the results of the 10th World Trade Union Congress.

Meetings with trade union delegations from the Ukraine and Uzbekistan ended late in the evening. The delegates to the congress from those republics' trade unions told journalists about the working people's struggle to successfully attain the goals set by the 26th CPSU Congress, the role of trade union organizations in developing socialist competition and the constant concern for working people displayed by trade unions in socialist countries.

Foreign Guests' Press Comments

PM261223 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Mar 82 p 4

[R. Kolchanov report: "Press Center for the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress"]

[Text] Yesterday was a busy and, as always, interesting day for the journalists who filled the cosy and comfortable premises of the press center of Zubovskiy Boulevard.

Belorussian and Latvian trade union envoys described the enormous changes in their republics' lives, the growth of their economies, the flourishing of culture and the working people's increasing prosperity. Pointing out these achievements, the speakers stressed the great friendship between the peoples of our multinational motherland. The USSR 60th jubilee is clear evidence of the triumphant path traveled by each republic within the fraternal family of Soviet peoples.

Foreign guests of our trade unions are addressing the congress from the Kremlin Palace of Congresses rostrum. They note the achievements of the Soviet working people and their trade unions in all spheres of life and they stress the extensive rights given to USSR trade union organizations, which play a role in solving the country's most important problems.

Guests of the Soviet trade unions also spoke about this yesterday at the press center. We have all been greatly impressed by the unlimited opportunities that trade unions have in the USSR and by their tremendous work for the good of the Soviet people, journalists were told by Nguyen Thuyet, secretary of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions. The speech made by L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet, has had a special place in the congress' work and represents a contribution to Marxist-Leninist doctrine on trade unions under socialism. The new peace initiatives put forward in the speech are evidence of the consistency of the USSR's peace-loving foreign policy course and serve to mobilize the public of the whole planet to struggle against the threat of war.

Dwelling in detail on the Vietnamese trade unions' activity, he stressed the significance of the Soviet trade unions' experience and constant help to Vietnam's working people. Nguyen Thuyet condemned the American imperialists' and Chinese hegemonists' unceasing intrigues against the SRV.

Describing the current situation in Nicaragua, Francisco Gonzales Garcia, secretary of the Sandinista Working People's Trade Union Center, stated that the United States and neighboring reactionary regimes have not given up hope of stifling the revolution in his country. We angrily condemn, he said, the NATO maneuvers off the coasts of Central American states, the concentration of hordes of CIA mercenaries on Nicaragua's borders, the acts of sabotage and the diversions, calumny and misinformation that U.S. bourgeois mass media are spreading about us.

In face of the growing threat we have declared a state of emergency and are mobilizing all forces to defend the revolutionary gains. Nicaragua's working class and trade unions play an important role in this struggle. At the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress we called on the whole progressive trade union movement to strengthen solidarity with our struggle and to repel American imperialism's intrigues in all the planet's "hot spots."

The Nicaraguan trade union representative noted the exceptional significance of the new Soviet peace proposals.

A.S. Pordeli, chairman of the Afghan Central Council of Trade Unions, began his speech with expressions of gratitude to the USSR and to our country's trade unions. Loyal to proletarian internationalism, the Soviet Union tirelessly and unselfishly supports our struggle for the country's freedom and independence.

At the congress, he said, I was clearly conscious of the monolithic nature of the Soviet trade unions and of the working people as a whole, going forward to new triumphs under the party's leadership. This forum is historic, and not only for working people in the USSR. Its influence on the development of the world trade union and workers movement is enormous.

A.S. Pordeli acquainted journalists with the history of the trade union movement in Afghanistan and with the complex tasks facing the republic. He cited many cases of interference in the country's internal affairs by American imperialists and Chinese hegemonists. President Reagan had declared 21 March a day of solidarity with the Afghan counterrevolutionaries. Our entire people and all progressive mankind resolutely condemn this latest act of the crudest violation of the elementary norms of international relations and of the spirit and letter of the UN Charter.

The chairman of the Afghan Central Council of Trade Unions devoted a significant part of his speech to the peace proposals put forward in L.I. Brezhnev's speech, stressing their urgency and their exceptional significance for the cause of peace throughout the world.

K.Y. Matskyavichyus, secretary of the AUCCTU, was present at the press conference in which the Soviet trade union forum's foreign guests participated.

Foreign Delegates' Activities

PM261311 Moscow TRUD in Russian 18 Mar 82 p 3

[P.Volpyanskiy and N. Shevtsov report: "Friendly Meetings"]

[Text] Yesterday the foreign guests of the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress visited various enterprises in the capital, where they met and talked with Moscow working people.

The Soviet-Vietnamese friendship rally held at Moscow's A.I. Yefremov Krasnyy Proletariy Machine Tool Building Plant was a vivid manifestation of the indestructible fraternal ties that link the working people of the Soviet Union and Vietnam. Representatives of the enterprise collective warmly welcomed the members of the Vietnamese trade union delegation, headed by Nguyen Duc Thuan, chairman of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions.

V.I. Peregudov, chairman of the plant trade union committee, who delivered an introductory address at the rally, noted in particular that the Krasnyy Proletariy workers, continuing the traditions of friendship and cooperation, have coped successfully with the socialist pledges adopted in honor of the forthcoming Fifth Vietnam Communist Party [VCP] Congress. Last year 80 metal-cutting machine tools were delivered to the SRV 2 months earlier than laid down in contract commitments.

Those present listened with great attention to the speech by Nguyen Duc Thuan, chairman of the Vietnam Confederation of Trade Unions.

Vu Hoang, SRV charge d'affaires in the USSR, who spoke at the rally, read out a decree awarding the Krasnyy Proletariy plant the Order of Friendship, and pinned the award to the enterprise's banner, to applause from those present.

The participants in the rally unanimously adopted a letter of greetings to the Fifth VCP Congress delegates.

Envoys from central trade union organizations in Afghanistan, Iran, Kampuchea, Turkey and Japan visited the Karacharovo Order of the October Revolution machines plant, where a rally was held. On behalf of the guests, those present were greeted by (Abdul Nedzhrabi), a worker on the Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan's working people, he said, are now waging a difficult struggle to build a new life -- and not only in production and in the fields. They are taking up arms to resist the counterrevolutionary rabble, which exists on sops from imperialism and has unleashed an undeclared war against the DRA from Pakistani territory.

But the Afghan working people, (A. Nedzhrabi) went on, and the DRA Armed Forces are striking increasingly strong blows against the revolution's enemies. We are not alone in our struggle. Here at the congress we have once again felt with particular force that the support of the Soviet Union's 130 million-strong army of working people is on our side.

The rally was also addressed by (Redzi Tadzima), deputy chairman of the independent Trade Unions of Japan (Churitsu Roreu) Liaison Council; (Kheng Teav), vice chairman of the Federation of Trade Unions of Kampuchea Central Committee; and (Kemal Daysal), secretary of the Turkish Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions (DISK).

On the same day the Soviet trade unions' guests from Yugoslavia visited the Likhachev truck plant. Representatives of the trade unions of Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden visited the S.M. Kirov First Moscow Clocks and Watches Plant, while the guests from Austria, Luxembourg, the FRG and the Netherlands visited the No 3 Furniture Assembly Combine. Envoys from working people's organizations in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea visited the Moscow shipbuilding and ship repair plant. Trade union figures from Thailand, the Philippines and Fiji were warmly received at the Parizhskaya Kommuna Footwear Factory. The guests from Botswana, Gambia, Nigeria, Sierre Leone, Tanzania, Ghana, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Ethiopia, South Africa, Kenya and Namibia and the representative of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU) met with workers at the Mosremstroymash Association.

The delegations from Jordan, Iraq, the Yemen Arab Republic, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya and Bahrain were the guests of the Cheremushki confectionery and bakery combine. The Moskva Sewn Goods Production Association was visited by trade union figures from Mauritania, Oman, Syria, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, as well as representatives of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions (ICATU) and a representative of the Federation of Trade Unions of Palestine. The 50-Letiye USSR Automatic Production Lines Plant was the venue for a meeting between enterprise workers and employees and representatives of working people's organizations from Argentina, Bolivia, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Paraguay. The 17th USSR Trade Union Congress' guests from Uruguay, Peru, El Salvador, Chile and Ecuador and the representative of the Permanent Congress of Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers (CPUSTAL) visited the Ostankino dairy combine.

Foreign Delegates' Visits

PM261611 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Mar 82 p 4

[P. Volpyanskiy and N. Shevtsov report: "Cordial Meetings on Moscow Soil"]

[Text] The meetings and talks held in the past few days between representatives of Moscow's labor collectives and the foreign guests to the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress have been a graphic manifestation of the working people's international solidarity. This was graphically shown in particular by yesterday's meeting of Soviet-Mongolian friendship at the Moskva-Sortirovchnaya Locomotive Depot in which a Mongolian trade union delegation headed by (Gombozhavyn Ochirbat), chairman of the Central Council of Mongolian Trade Unions, took part.

The meeting was addressed by locomotive driver V.S. Kandaulov, who warmly welcomed the Mongolian guests to the birthplace of the first communist subbotniks, which V.I. Lenin called "the great initiative," on behalf of nis work comrades.

In my time, the speaker said, I worked in Mongolia. I am proud that a small share of my labor is invested in the building of socialism on Mongolian soil.

Electric locomotive repair shop foreman V.P. Kelperis assured the Soviet and Mongolian participants in the meeting that on the day of the all-union Lenin Communist Subbotnik he, together with his team comrades, would repair two electric locomotives, including one for the [workers'] relay train, which will ship Moscow plants' output to the new construction sites of Siberia and the Far East.

The meeting's participants listened with great attention to the speech delivered by [G. Ochirbat), chairman of the Central Council of Mongolian Trade Unions. On behalf of the Mongolian working class he conveyed warm fraternal greetings to the workers of the Moskva-Sortirovochnaya Locomotive Depot, stressing that his country's working people are well acquainted with the great initiative of that enterprise -- the organizer of the first communist subbotniks, which laid the foundation for a communist attitude to work. (G. Ochirbat) assessed highly the significance of the peace-loving initiatives that Comrade L.I. Brezhnev advanced at the 17th Trade Union Congress. The Mongolian trade union delegation's participation in the congress' work, he said, enabled it to familiarize itself more closely with the inspired labor of the Soviet people -- the Mongolian people's greatest friends.

In conclusion (G. Ochirbat) wished the enterprise collective new labor success in greeting the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation.

The head of the Mongolian delegation presented Mongolian trade union awards to leading production workers at the Moskva-Sortirovochnaya Depot.

On the same day the delegation from the federation of Lao trade unions, headed by (Sanan Sutkhichak), chairman of the Federation of Lao Trade Unions, visited Moscow's Smena Sewn Goods Production Association. The collective of the first state ballbearing plant gave a cordial reception to members of the Romanian trade union delegation headed by Cornel Ornescu, chairman of the General Union of Trade Unions of Romania Central Council. A DPRK trade union delegation headed by Kim Pong-chu, chairman of the general federation of trade unions of Korea, visited the Babayev confectionery factory.

20 Mar Proceedings

PM261333 Moscow TRUD in Russian 21 Mar 82 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "We Shall Justify Lofty Trust; the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress Completed Its Work in Moscow Yesterday"]

[Excerpts] The 17th USSR TRade Union Congress worked for 5 days in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses in Moscow. The congress graphically demonstrated the Soviet trade unions' monolithic unity around the Leninist Communist Party, their devotion to the all-conquering ideas of communism and their determination to continue to be the party's loyal assistants and its reliable bulwark among the masses. A school of administration, economic management and communism, our trade unions are actively promoting and development of socialist democracy, enlisting the working people in the great cause of building communism and directing the Soviet people's creative activity toward the successful fulfillment of the historic 26th CPSU Congress' decisions.

The 20 March morning session continued the discussion of the AUCCTU and Central Auditing Commission reports. Comrades N.O. Yuganson, chairman of the Estonian Republic Trade Union Council; Hero of Socialist Labor M.A. Lazarev, mixed team leader at the Moscow City Main Administration for the Construction of Engineering Installations' Gordorstroy No 3 Trust and USSR state prize winner; and A.D. Klopov, chairman of the Gorkovskaya Oblast Trade Union Council, spoke in the debate.

Greetings were addressed to the delegates by Comrades Roberto Prieto, member of the Executive Secretariat of the Permanent Congress of Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers; (Greguar Agbakhe), first deputy general secretary of the National Association of Trade Unions of Working People of Benin; (Mokahamed Larbi Kalla), national secretary of the General Association of Algerian Working People; Mansur as-Sarrari, secretary of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions; Alphonse (Ondonda), secretary of the Congolese Trade Union Confederation; and 'Uthman 'Umar Zayid, secretary of the General Congress of Trade Union Professional Congresses of Producers of the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

The congress decided to close the debate on the AUCCTU and Central Auditing Commission reports.

Comrade S.A. Shalayev delivered the concluding speech. He noted that 51 people had spoken in plenary sessions in the discussion of the AUCCTU report. In addition 114 delegates spoke in the sections.

The congress unanimously adopted a resolution on the AUCCTU report: To approve the AUCCTU's work over the period under review.

The congress unanimously approved the Central Auditing Commission report.

The 17th USSR Trade Union Congress received about 3,500 labor reports and greetings from industrial, transport and agricultural enterprise, construction organization and scientific institution collectives reporting their work achievements and future plans.

In the period of preparation for and during the congress about 11,000 letters were received from workers, employees, kolkhoz members, labor veterans and pensioners. In their letters our country's working people highly assess the activity of the CPSU and its Central Committee, the Politburo and Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally. They express profound thanks to the CPSU and the Soviet Government for their constant concern for working people and for consolidating and preserving world peace and assure the trade union congress that they will make fitting contributions to implementing the historic 26th CPSU Congress' decisions, and the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation with new achievements in socialist competition for the successful fulfillment of the 1982 plan and the 11th 5-Year Plan targets, make specific proposals in these letters for improving the trade unions activity and make various requests of a personal nature.

The congress unanimously adopted a resolution "On Working People's Letters to the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress."

The congress then embarked on an examination of the next point on the agenda -- the election of the AUCCTU and the Central Auditing Commission.

The congress session unanimously adopted the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress resolution on AUCCTU Chairman Comrade S.A. Shalayev's "Report on the AUCCTU's Work and the Trade Unions' Tasks in the Light of the 26th CPSU Congress Decisions."

The congress also adopted a resolution on partial changes to USSR trade union rules.

The congress heard a report from the counting commission on the results of the elections for the USSR trade unions' central organs.

The concluding session of the 17th USSR Trade Union Congress was held in the evening.

Standing, the congress delegates and guests greeted Comrades Yu.V. Andropov, M.S. Gorbachev, V.V. Grishin, A.A. Gromyko, D.F. Ustinov, K.U. Chernenko, P.N. Demichev, V.V. Kuznetsov, B.N. Ponomarev, I.V. Lapitonov, V.I. Dolgikh, M.V. Zimyanin and K.V. Rusakov with tempestuous and prolonged applause.

Comrade Shalayev, presiding, reported that the AUCCTU plenum had elected its leading organs. The Central Auditing Commission has elected a commission chairman at its session.

The congress adopted a greetings letter to the CPSU Central Committee and Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee with tremendous enthusiasm.

AUCCTU Chairman Comrade S.A. Shalayev delivered a speech to the congress delegates and guests.

The 17th USSR Trade Union Congress was declared closed.

The congress delegates and guests sang the party anthem, the Internationale, with great enthusiasm.

TURKMEN KOMSOMOL CONGRESS, PLENUM HELD

Congress Opening

GF281237 Ashkhabad Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] The 27th Congress of the Leninist Young Communist League of Turkmenistan opened at the House of Political Education of the Ashkhabad Obkom on 26 March. In the hall were delegates of almost half a million youths of the republic's Komsomol army representing progressive workers and innovators of industry and agricultural production, the intelligentsia, students and fighters of the Soviet army.

The regular congress of the Turkmen Komsomol started its work at a time when all the Soviet people, under the leadership of the Comminist Party and with full political and labor enthusiasm, are successfully putting into practice the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress. The session pledged to overfulfill plans and socialist pledges during the 2d year of the 11th 5-Year Plan period and to respond to the 60th anniversary of the formation of the USSR appropriately. Through its 27th congress the Komsomol of Turkmenistan (?expresses) its intimate solidarity in support of the native Communist Party. It is a politically matured and organized [word indistinct] detachment of the Leninist Young Communist League of the Soviet Union.

The congress was opened by Charryyeva, first secretary of the Turkmen Komsomol Central Committee. (?The ceremonial march took place at the hall, which is bearing the red banner of the Turkmen Komsomol organization and the memorial banner of Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee.) With great inspiration [words indistinct] to the staff of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The delegates will elect the working organs of the congress and will affirm today's (?agenda), which comprises a report by the Turkmen Komsomol Central Committee, a report of the Auditing Commission of the Turkmen Komsomol, election of leading organs of the republican Komsomol organizations and election of delegates to the 19th congress of the Leninist Young Communist League of the Soviet Union.

Gapurov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee, delivered a speech at the congress. He conveyed [word indistinct] greetings of the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee to the 27th congress of the republic's Komsomol.

Charryyeva presented a report on the work of the Turkmen Komsomol Central Committee and the tasks of Komsomol organizations in light of the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and the 22d congress of the Turkmen Communist Party. (Balef), chairman of the Auditing Commission, reported on the work of his commission.

The congress also heard reports presented by (Baylibanov), first secretary of Ashkhabad Obkom Komsomol; [words indistinct]; (Arkulov), first secretary of Krasnovodskiy Obkom Komsomol; (Khudzhayev), chief of the mechanical repairs workshop of [words indistinct] cotton cleaning factory and secretary of the Komsomol organization of this enterprise; [words indistinct]; Nazarov, first secretary of Maryyskiy Obkom Komsomol; [words indistinct]; (Bekiyev), first secretary of Chardzhouskiy Obkom Komsomol; [words indistinct] Suksevich, chairman of Committee for Physical Culture and Sports affiliated with the Turkmen Council of Ministers; [words indistinct]; (Bedzanov), first secretary of Tashauzskiy Obkom Komsomol; (Gafurov), chief editor of the Turkmen Komsomol newspaper; Annayev, first secretary of (Baermaliskiy) Raykom Komsomol; and [words indistinct].

The congress was addressed by (Aspon), former cosmonaut and twice Hero of the Soviet Union. The congress was greeted by the Pioneers.

The congress is being attended by Annaorozaov, (Boyko), (Dzuliyev), (Karyy), Makarkin, Mishchenko, Mollayeva, (Charryyev), [Name indistinct]; Yazkuliyev, Ishankuliyeva, (Niyazov) and [name indistinct], members and candidate members of the Turkmen Communist Party Central Committee Bureau; Bazarova and (Bershiyev), deputy chairman of the Turkmen Council of Ministers; Kuznetsov and Romov, CPSU Central Committee instructors of the Leninist Young Communist League of the Soviet Union.

A grand concert was performed in honor of the congress participants. [Words indistinct] the statue of Vladimir Ilich Lenin.

The congress will continue its work 27 March.

Congress' Conclusion

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[Summary] The 27th congress of the Turkmen Leninist Young Communist League continued its work on 27 March. The delegates of the congress discussed reports from the Turkmen Leninist Young Communist League Central Committee and its Auditing Commission. The congress was addressed by Dergausov, secretary of the All-Union Komsomol Central Committee. The delegates of the congress were greeted by the soldiers of Ashkhabad garrison. The closing plenary session was addressed by Charryyeva, first secretary of the Turkmen Komsomol Central Committee.

The delegates of the congress unanimously adopted the resolutions of the Turkmen Komsomol 27th Congress. The congress elected a new staff for the Turkmen Komsomol Central Committee and for the Auditing Commission. Congratulatory messages were sent from Komsomol Central Committees of fraternal republics, and from Komsomol organizations of industrial enterprises, the agriculture sector and educational institutions.

The 27th congress of the Turkmen Komsomol concluded its work.

Capital Committee Plenum

GF281532 Ashkhabad Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] The Central Committee of the Turkmen Leninist Young Communist League, which was elected by the 27th congress of the republic's Komsomol, held its first plenum on 27 March.

The plenum reviewed organizational questions. It elected Charryyeva first secretary of the Turkmen Leninist Young Communist League Central Committee, (Bakhushina) second secretary and (Serniyeva), (Avisovy) and (Balidova) secretaries. The plenum retained the chiefs of departments of the Turkmen Leninist Young Communist League Central Committee, editors and young (?newspaper) journalists.

During the meeting of the (?Auditing Commission) of the Turkmen Leninist Young Communist League, Atayev was elected chairman of the commission.

MVD PUBLIC ORDER CHIEF'S DEATH REPORTED

PM290859 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Mar 82 p 4

[E. Kh. Abramov obituary]

[Text] Maj Gen of Militia Erik Khrisanfovich Abramov, chief of the USSR MVD Main Administration for the Maintenance of Public Order, has died suddenly at age 52.

E. Kh. Abramov was born in Moscow on 29 June 1929. After graduating from the Moscow Law Institute in 1952, he was sent to work in Moscow's internal affairs organs. he worked as inspector of criminal investigation, investigator and chief of an investigation section, a rayon internal affairs department, the Moscow Gorispolkom Main Administration of Internal Affairs Administration for the Maintenance of Public Order and the USSR MVD Moscow Administration of Internal Affairs for Air Transport. In February 1982 E. Kh. Abramov was appointed chief of the USSR MVD Main Administration for the Maintenance of Public Order.

Working in internal affairs organs, E. Kh. Abramov showed himself an energetic, strong-willed and principled worker possessing great organizational abilities and high professional and moral-political qualities. His diligence, conscientious execution of service duty, party exactingness and tactful and attentive attitude to people, his responsiveness and broadmindedness won him deserved prestige and the profound respect of all who worked with him.

Communist E.Kh. Abramov devoted all his strength, knowledge and rich experience to strengthening and improving the activity of internal affairs organs. The Communist Party and Soviet state rated his services highly and awarded him three Orders of the Red Star, the "Badge of Honor" Order, and other medals.

Erik Khrisanfovich Abramov's bright memory will remain in our hearts forever.

[Signed] A group of comrades.

ZIMYANIN IN FUNERAL GUARD FOR SIDORENKO

LD261510 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1400 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Today Moscow said farewell to Academician Aleksandr Vasilyevich Sidorenko, the outstanding Soviet scientist and organizer of science, member of the CPSU, vice-president of the USSR Academy of Sciences, director of the Lithosphere Institute, deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet and a Lenin prizewinner. The funeral guard in the conference hall of the Presidium of the USSR Academy of Sciences was mounted by Comrade Zimyanin, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, academician Comrade Marchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, responsible officials of the CPSU Central Committee; heads of ministries and departments; scientists; and representatives of party and administrative organizations.

A funeral meeting took place at the Novodevichye Cemetery, where Comrade Sidorenko was buried.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS FOR 24-28 MARCH

LD290712 [Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 24-28 March. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item.

24 March

Chimkentskaya Oblast farms have raised the productivity of sown meadows by sowing mixed annual and perennial grasses. About 40,000 hectares in the oblast are devoted to mixed sowings of fodder crops and this will yield over 200,000 tons of hay, haylage, silage and fodder root crops. (0000 GMT)

Farmers in Stoylinskiy Rayon, Brestskaya Oblast, are to sow first-class seeds on all fields allotted to grain crops. In the Ukraine over 13,000 mechanized teams are preparing for sugar beet sowing. All sowing machinery has been completely overhauled. (0500 GMT)

Sowing of fodder crops and sugar beat has been completed in the south of Tadzhikistan. A total area of almost 50,000 hectares will be covered by annual grass crops. (0700 GMT)

More than 13,000 mechanized detachments and groups are preparing for sugar beet sowing in the Ukraine. All machinery is ready and farms are supplied with graded seed. About half the seed is from new, high-yield varieties and is mainly for fields where sugar beet is to be grown using industrial technology. (1200 GMT)

A meeting of the All-Russian Council of Collective Farms has been held in Moscow. It discussed tasks relating to the economic and social development of farms this year. Among the most important of these tasks, the council referred to the more rational use of improved lands. Their area will have increased by the time of the current spring sowing by 500,000 hectares. There is also to be an extensive introduction in all parts of the republic of the scientifically-based system of farm management. A number of measures were outlined for raising soil fertility. Considerable work will be done to improve the production of seeds for grain and other crops. A large program has been outlined for increasing fodder production within the republic. Sowing of corn will be considerably expanded and the crop's yields raised. This spring there is also to be an increase in the area allotted to protein-rich pulse crops. (1900 GMT)

25 March

Preparations for spring sowing have been completed in Lipetskaya Oblast. Grain and fodder crops are to be sown on 500,000 hectares. (1900 GMT)

26 March

Mass corn sowing has begun in the Vakhshskaya Valley in Tadzhikistan. Corn sowing has also been started by farmers in Kulyabskaya Oblast and (Isaakskaya) Valley. (0304 GMT)

South Odesskaya Oblast begun sowing of early spring crops: peas, barley, alfalfa and others. Harrowing, top-dressing, moisture retention work and sowing are taking place at the same time. In the oblast early spring crops are being sown on 500,000 hectares this year. (0500 GMT)

27 March

Thanks to the warm weather, farms in the south Baltic area have begun sowing earlier than usual. Farms in Polesskiy, Guryevskiy and Bagrationvskiy Rayons in Kaliningradskaya Oblast today sowed their first hectares with spring barley. At the same time topdressing of winter crops and harrowing are in progress and mineral fertilizers are being applied to meadows and pasture land. (1900 GMT)

The sowing campaign will soon be in full swing in the country's fields. Summer crops are to be sown on over 140 million hectares. Most of the work will have to be done on land sown to grain crops. Since the autumn, quite a lot has been done for next year's harvest. Some 117 million hectares of fallow land has been plowed. Winter grain was treated with mineral fertilizers on almost 11 million hectares. (2050 GMT)

28 March

In Turkmenistan special attention is being paid to expanding vineyard acreage. At the moment a shamefully low quantity of grapes, some 60,000 tons, is being produced although Turkmenistan is ideally suited to this crop. The republic has more sunny days than anywhere else in the country -- 3,000 hours per year. The traditions of grape cultivation go back to ancient times in Turkmenistan. Attitudes to this crop used to be determined by shortage of water. With the arrival of the Karakumskiy Canal all this has changed. The canal is now over 1,100 km long. Mass sowing of cotton will begin in southeast Turkmenistan in early April. An area of 506,000 hectares has been allocated for the crop. (0300 GMT)

Sowing of early spring crops has begun in Moldavia. Peas and other crops are being sown; since the weather is still cold and the time to sow pulse crops has come, machine operators are hurrying. (0400 GMT)

Field work has begun in southern Belorussia, with 16,000 tractor units in the fields in Brestskaya Oblast. Most are occupied with soil preparation. Sowing of cereals has begun in a number of southern rayons of the republic. (0500 GMT)

SPRING SOWING PLANS, PROGRESS DESCRIBED

LD272220 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Summary] After last year's drought, this year farmers are determined to produce a good harvest and make up for the shortage of a number of crops, to provide a solid fodder base for livestock breeding and to strengthen the economy of the farms. Spring sowing is expected on more than 140 million hectares, mainly in the grain crops growing zone. Attention will also be given to industrial and fodder crops. Farms have already plowed 117 million hectares of arable land; 44 million hectares received surface tillage -- 5 million hectares more than last year. Mineral fertilizers were spread over winter grain crops on almost 11 million hectares, which is also better than last year's performance. Spring grain crop seeds have been provided by kolkhozes and sovkhozes to a practically full extent. Those farms which were particularly affected by the drought have received state help. About 72,000 teams and groups of machine operators have been formed on the farms to take care of the spring field work. Some of the groups will work according to schemes of collective contracting which was highly esteemed by Comrade Brezhnev at the 17th Trade Union Congress.

DECISION ADOPTED TO INCREASE SEED PRODUCTION

LD261342 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0900 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers have adopted a decision on measure to increase the procurement and production of sunflower, soya, rape and other oil-bearing crop seeds and to raise their quality. It is noted that in recent years attention to the cultivation of these crops has weakened. Reference is also made to their low yield. Gross harvests are not increasing. Some farms have reduced sowing areas without justification. The transfer of seed farming onto an industrial basis is being carried out only slowly. The decision maps out a series of measures to increase production and to fulfill planned procurement of sunflower, soya, rape and other oil-bearing crop seeds. The decision has been published in full in the newspapers.